
**A WORD
FROM
PASTOR
LAURA**

Normal Business, New Methods

Every year in January, we gather for our Annual Congregational Meeting. Usually, we pile into the Sanctuary and try to squeeze the meeting in between our two worship services. If the weather is bad, we may worry about getting a quorum so that we are able to conduct business. This year, everything is different.

We still have our normal business to conduct: Council and committee elections, a budget to pass, and constitutional amendments to consider. In addition, we have a resolution from the Finance Ministry regarding our surplus funds from 2020, in order to be ready for the year ahead.

The Congregational Council is planning a hybrid meeting, with in-person and Zoom options. We are encouraging people to choose the Zoom option for attendance if you are able to do so. The Fellowship Room will be open and have limited seating available for those who choose to attend in person.

The Zoom platform will allow us to have discussion and vote on most of the items on our agenda. The exception will be the election of Council members, which, according to our Constitution, requires a written ballot. We are working hard to prepare a mailing to each voting member in the congregation that will include a ballot for this election, along with instructions on when and where to return the ballot in order to cast your vote.

There are more details to share about the Annual Meeting than I have space for here. All of the details will be sent in January to the voting members of the congregation. What I want to share with you here is that, throughout the pandemic, through all the various phases – lockdowns, sheltering-in-place, restrictions, mitigations, and all of the efforts to slow the spread – FLC staff, volunteers, and Council members have been working hard to continue

our ministry. We long for the day when things will return to “normal,” and in the meantime, we look for creative new ways to share the good news of Christ’s love with all of you and with our wider community, and we also work to continue the day-to-day and week-to-week operations that keep our church running. Our Annual Meeting is one of those operational tasks that invites participation from every voting member of our congregation.

One of the new ministry opportunities in the month of January will be “drive-thru” Holy Communion. On January 10, we will set the table in the Sanctuary for our holy meal, and consecrate the bread and wine during our livestream worship. Then, after our livestream worship has ended, either Pastor Matt or myself will be available in the south parking lot, 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., so that you can come and receive the sacrament. You will stay in your car and roll down your window, and a masked pastor will offer you bread and wine, as God offers you forgiveness and love.

The month of January in the church calendar sees the conclusion of the Christmas season and the first several weeks of Epiphany. We will celebrate the Baptism of our Lord on January 10. We will celebrate the Light that shines the darkness, as we continue to watch and wait and hope for signs of new life among us.

—*Pastor Laura*