

### Congregational Update

*“...lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” (Ephesians 4.1-3)*

April 21, 2020

Dear Friends,

The Congregational Council met on Monday, April 20th using the online video conferencing tool Zoom. Saying that indicates what the new “normal” has become for many – meetings, classes, family gatherings are conducted using technologies some of us have never used or even heard of. Some semblance of a normal life continues in this pandemic just as life after the resurrection continues. Different but filled with hope and possibilities.

You may be wondering, “When will Trinity resume it’s normal congregational life?” Businesses and workers are asking a similar question regarding returning to “business as usual.” But a church isn’t a business and even returning to “normal” may not be a return to “the ways things were.”

As your Council, our primary concern is for the well-being (spiritual, physical) of the people of God both in this congregation and in the world. Any action we take will be based on whether it fulfills that primary concern.

**To that end, any decision we make about resuming normal operations will be based on the expertise and advice of scientific and medical professionals and PA mandates.** We’re aware that some are eager to get back to normal; we fully realize that we are stewards of the finances of the congregation at a time when financial matters are a concern for individuals and the church. But we are committed to prayerful discernment of God’s spirit leading us to the right decision for the right time.

In the interim, we are happy to report that our weekly worship attendance via remote access has been steady and we are finding ways to stay connected. Some adult Sunday School classes have been meeting via Zoom. Our remote Tuesday night hymn sing continues throughout the month of April and the 3 Ds Ladies Group will be hosting their first remote meeting this week. Our Relief Funds Committee has also been responding to identified needs within our Trinity community. God’s people can be creative when it comes to building up the body!

**Council will be meeting again very soon to discern specifics for when we resume in-person gatherings and meetings.** Some changes that have been implemented during this period of isolation may be continued, e.g. streaming worship for people who can’t attend worship, using Zoom as a regular part of meetings allowing folks who can’t attend in-person to meet.

Please keep us and your fellow TELC members and friends in prayer. It took God’s people forty years to get where they were meant to be. We have been given the spirit of encouragement so let us go ahead with the risen Christ with courage and in hope.

On Behalf of the Council,

Doug Gebhard, Interim Pastor