

First Christian Church Board Meeting

Elders Report, April 2021

Stephen Landale

While still fulfilling long-standing roles of leading prayers in worship services and providing weekly calls (due to the pandemic) of a handful of members, the elders are also taking time to discern congregational needs and have initiated new ways of supporting the congregation, including:

- Periodic calls to a much larger number of members
- Pastoral triage and support during the minister's sabbaticals
- Beginning to explore new means of outreach (signs out front, etc)
- Partnering with Spiritual Formation to organize a very well-attended and appreciated "Seasons of Grief" program
- (I believe in partnership with Spiritual Formation) organizing a sermon-response time option following Sunday services

For our last meeting, members read selected portions of *Disciples Eldership*, including a history of the eldership within Christianity and Disciples of Christ in particular. We have decided that broadening our scope is both appropriate to the role and may serve the congregation's well. We are especially interested in further working in partnership with other groups, as we have begun doing with Spiritual Formation.

Rev. April Oristano brought to our April 12 meeting proposed language for the Bylaws that summarizes our role. We gave feedback on that language.