

Letter from your Co-Moderators

May 26, 2021

Amy and I write to share the excitement with you that spring is unfolding into summer and we are closer to being able to meet together as a congregation, beginning on July 11 at Church in the Park at Alton Baker Park.

We were very happy to see many of you at the Congregational Meeting on May 16 on zoom. It was a very productive meeting. We heard a financial report from Linda Bright, approved bylaws and policies regarding search and call, thanked our Transition Team for all their hard work during the last year, and commissioned the Search and Call and Nominating Committees.

From time to time during the meeting, we posted a series of interactive polls to gauge the Congregation's willingness to reopen the church to outside tenants or to use our building space for our own missions and outreach. Most of you who were at the meeting voted that you want to prioritize building use for our own missions.

Doing this comes with a price, literally. In the past years we have had a small but steady stream of revenue from our tenants, some of which also do good work in the community: AA, the Interfaith Service.... We hope that as we move forward, we will have further conversation about how we can continue to open our doors to some groups and also increase financial giving by the congregation to keep us whole in the years to come.

Please also consider in the months to come what role you want to play in your church. Do you have a talent that you would like to share, an interest in challenging yourself in a new way to work in Christ's kin-dom? While many of you have continued to do Christ's work in the church and for the church, for many of us, the last year has been a time of assessing what is most important. Perhaps you have spent time in contemplation and discernment and are ready to step out in new ways towards a world of environmental and social justice, human rights for all marginalized groups, caring for those among us who need to know that although their time of activity and ability to serve is slowing, they are still valued members of this body. We may not be able to return to the church we remember, but we can create and realize a church for the future.

In the months to come, we as a congregation will call a new co-pastor and we as a congregation will return to the building. And we, your co-moderators, hope to be able to extend the hand of Christ's fellowship to you once again.

God is faithful, compassionate and generative. We are so blessed.

Sincerely in Christ, *Amy Metzger & Eliza Drummond*