

# Annual Meeting



# First Congregational



**UCC CORVALLIS**

**Sunday, September 12, 2021, First Congregational UCC,  
Corvallis**



Us 😊





- Call to Order, Patrick O'Dell, Council Chair 2020
- Pastoral Greetings
- Ministry Circle Reports
- Administrative Report
- Fiscal Year Highlights
- Budget Breakdown
- Election of Council Members
- Looking Ahead



# Meeting Agenda

# 2020 A Look Back

Let's be honest, 2020 was rough. But 2020 was also a time of learning, growth, and building resilience in the time of COVID-19 through deep care, public theology, anti-racism work, spiritual development, and activism.





## Attract Friends

- Social media

## Retain Members

- Digital small groups, classes
- Communities of care with porch drop-offs, special mailings



## Develop Partners

- Unity Shelter

## Develop Activists

- Gospel in Action

## Nurture Spirits

- Reimagined worship
- New small groups, workshops, classes

## Grow Leaders

- Members in Discernment
- Matthew Nelson, Artist in Residence
- Sea Bond-Frojen, Communications Ministry

# Pastoral Greetings: Jennifer L. Butler, Senior Minister




- What does it mean to be human; how shall we live and who will we be to each other?

In the spaces  
between...

- Courage
- Hospitality
- Holism

- Wholeness of Person
- Resilient Relationships
- Social Repair
- Love as a Transformational Muscle





Pastoral  
Greetings:  
Walter Balk,  
General Minister



“Arise, shine, for  
your light has come,  
and the glory of the  
LORD rises upon  
you.” Isaiah 60:1

For it is important that  
awake people be awake,  
or a breaking line may  
discourage them back to  
sleep; the signals we give —  
yes or no, or maybe —  
should be clear: the  
darkness around us is  
deep.”

(from William Stafford: A  
Ritual To Read To Each  
Other)





Here only a few of the many examples that I have been privileged to have witnessed:



- A beautifully written card that lifts the spirit of a church member
- To help facilitate the ongoing discernment process of understanding how we as a community are called to minister beyond the walls of our building
- A church member standing in front of City Hall with a sign demanding justice for the unsheltered
- To help acknowledge how the last eighteen months have changed our community and look at the different ways we gather as we move forward into the renovated Sanctuary
- Book discussion breakout groups in which members risk sharing their experiences of trauma and of white-body privilege
- To continue help strengthening the fabric of our community so that each one of knows that we are deeply beloved

# First Congo at a Glance: Why, Where and Hope

➤ Describe the *why* of your ministry

➤ Where did your ministry group/circle see God in the past year?

➤ What do you hope for your ministry in the next year?



# First Congo at a Glance: Music with Dr. Steve Zielke



- The music ministry of First Congregational focuses on providing music opportunities that allow participants the joy of learning and expressing music, while being a part of a warm and supportive community.
- It was nothing less than a miracle to find joy and community in our online rehearsals—something that we would have thought impossible.
- I hope for the coming year to be a point of inflection for the music ministry as we adjust to the time after COVID to push ourselves to be more inclusive, more open, and more responsive to the needs of the church.





# First Congo at a Glance: Children & Youth Ministry with Jaqui Eicher







- Children (and teens) feel their belovedness in the context of this ministry circle. We process questions about God and the world, and show each other grace, love and kindness.
- Children expressed an openness to help others in big ways (ie: helping our neighbors who are without permanent shelter).  
Create space to experience belovedness in person
- Plan at least 6 children-focused (an/or teen-focused) special events. Create a communication flow between children and the greater







## First Congo at a Glance: Member in Discernment, Matthew Nelson (Artist in Residence)

- Art and poetry is used to advocate for the oppressed, create a safe entry point for people looking for commonality and connection, and provide a space where people can come together for support.
- Begin doing restoration workshops
- Expand outreach for support groups
- Art and poetry events