

Pastor Enno's Weekly Message

Dear Friends,

At our Summer Meeting, I thought about Nancy Giguere's report that talks about churches at risk when I went up to do the Pastor's Report. I was going to uplift that one of the risk factors that we don't have is using the endowments/investments for our annual budget. When I talked about it, I stated all was well according to Nancy. She did point out 4 risk factors (shown below in another article and in our newsletter) that make our church susceptible to become dysfunctional or causing us to close. I clearly stated her report wrongly. For that I apologize.

I don't believe that any of those risk factors are going to cause the death of this church because they are not being untreated. We have two of our board members who have been associated with our church less than five years, so we are having an infusion of new blood. The risk factor of church attendance is being struggled with in almost every congregation, regardless of denomination or size, in our post-pandemic world. I think we have been doing pretty good all things considered.

We are not Superman and impervious to any risk except green kryptonite (doctrine/spiritual inerrancy/absolutes). Any and every church can become unhealthy or function unhealthily for many generations. I believe we are a healthy church with a chronic condition or two, like the absence of people under 60 (much less 40) which can be reversed, but it takes time and attention.

These are good things to ponder and think about. As our Conference Minister Rev. Shari Prestemon tells us, we need 'creative re-imagination' to see us into the future. It is also good to recognize the blessings this church does have, and the blessings we give to our community. Let us continue to strive to be the church, share the good news, and do God's will on earth as it is in heaven, all with love.

Peace,

Pastor Enno