



January 31, 2021

Dear Messiah Members and Friends,

We just completed our annual meeting earlier today. We looked back a bit at this past year. We elected members to the church council and the endowment committee. We passed our congregation's budget for 2021. It was a meeting adapted to the reality of the pandemic, but it was so good to see so many faces and look forward to the day when we can worship, fellowship, learn, and serve together again in person.

As the first quarter of 2021 unfolds, we will be gathering annual reports for 2020 on our website. If you'd like to submit a report, please send it as a Word document to lynne.inman@mlcauburn.org. We will let folks know as reports come in, and on April 1, we will create a unified 2020 annual report.

I would like to say a word of deep thanks to our church council. Throughout the uncertainty of 2020, each member offered their time and talent to lead Messiah through uncharted territory. They did so thoughtfully, with good humor, and a dedication to Messiah's mission and ministry.

I would also like to convey to the congregation my deep appreciation for each and every Messiah staff member. With no framework or pattern to follow, they continued to inspire and share their ideas and gifts, not just to move Messiah's ministry forward but to evolve, deepen, and grow it in wonderful ways.

I thank Pr. Susan for jumping on board in November and taking leadership of the Care Team Ministry, as well as sharing her pastoral care gifts. **I thank Savannah** for creating and sharing wonderful faith formation events for all ages, even as she plunged into the wild world of seminary life. **I thank Jan** for adding her gifted singing and accomplished leadership to Messiah worship, and for making Messiah an online presence, both as a gift to our wider community and as an "online home" for Messiah members on our website and through social media. **I thank Lynne** for being the comforting voice of Messiah on the phone (often from her home) and for helping reassure so many of our members that Messiah is alive and well in its ministry. **I thank Pam** for expanding her duties from finance to the bigger world of church operations, and for being so gracefully detailed in all that she does (especially in the design of forms and spreadsheets and in the craft of laminating). **I thank Katie** for bringing joy, laughter, and a somewhat mischievous spirit to her work of worship planning and playing. What a gift Katie is for Messiah! Finally, **I thank Tia** for being the unflappable hub of the wheel. Without Tia's enthusiastic, can-do spirit, Messiah's online worship and expanded communication emphasis would be more chore and less joyful ministry.

Finally, **I want to thank Kirsten** for being patient with me as I fretted, worried, and often over-functioned as Messiah's Senior Pastor during a 100-year pandemic. She knows me better than anyone and still loves me! For that gift, I am truly thankful. For her (and us), I promise to work on functioning as a better self and spouse in the year to come.

Blessings, Messiah! 2021 will once again be a year of tremendous transition, evolution, and unexpected opportunities. As God's Beloved Community together, I am ready to take on the new year as we "act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God."

Pastor Chuck Harris

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