



Good News for the Pews

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Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

On November 28, 2021 I gave a Moment for Stewardship during worship. A few people had commented that it was helpful to hear a kind of overview of what I do as a pastor for the church. Irene Ng had asked me to forward the text to her for this issue of Good News for the Pews. This is the script I used for that presentation...

For the last 2 years, most of you have only seen me on your screens in the pulpit, but my work is so much more than that and a lot of it begins down here in my office. If it sounds a little noisy, that is because there is activity in the church. Like the Food Pantry, you can hear everything! It's not uncommon for folks to have a hazy idea of what it is the pastor does, but certainly you know (I hope!) that the role is so much more than crafting and delivering a sermon each week, or answering phone calls and opening the front door when people ring the bell.

I was engaged by the Commission to come and be your Interim Minister in 2019. In order for me to do that work, I needed understand all of the ministries, programs, and fellowship groups here in the English Worshipping Community. To that end each month I attend the Worship & Nurture and the Mission & Evangelism Committee meetings. I also attend the Resource Committee meetings, though more infrequently. To support and guide the leaders of the church I moderate the monthly Commission meeting, and attend the Deacons meeting. On months with a fifth Sunday I also convene the meeting of the Consistory. I lead Elder and Deacon training yearly, and a New Members class as needed. Of course I act as a consultant to the Mission Study Team, a big interim duty, but I have also engaged in the five tasks of interim ministry by helping the church: (1) come to terms with history; (2) discern “who we are now”; (3) summon and shepherd shifts in power and leadership changes; (4) (re-)engage presbytery and sister congregation linkages, and once all that is completed; (5) work to help leadership commit to the findings of the Mission Study Report. These five tasks are written explicitly into my contract with you. Of course over the last two years there has also been this whole ‘pandemic’ thing.

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