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Minister's Message

Congregational Meeting Sunday, September 13, 10:00 a.m.

Our Constitution and Bylaws allow for in-person congregational meetings only on church property. You may remember way back when—before the global pandemic—we had a meeting of the congregation scheduled for March 22. That was postponed until September 13. The only item of business on the original agenda was to call Rev. Ben Konecny as Minister—Head of Staff effective January 1, 2021.

You should have received in the mail two ballots per household to vote on Rev. Ben Konecny's move to Minister—Head of Staff effective January 1, 2021. Please return only one ballot per person. If you have more than two voting members, call or email the church office for the appropriate number of ballots. They must be returned to the church by Friday, September 11. That is the only matter upon which you may vote by mail.

At the September 13 meeting, there will be two votes taken. The first vote will be to amend our Constitution and Bylaws to allow for mail-in ballots should the Church Cabinet decide it necessary in extraordinary times (like a global pandemic). Should that vote succeed, then your mail-in ballot can be counted in the second vote taken on September 13: to call Rev. Ben Konecny as Minister—Head of Staff effective January 1, 2021. If you vote by mail AND attend the meeting, there will be a way to recognize your presence at the meeting without voting twice. We need 56 church members in order to conduct business on September 13. If the west lot is full, please park in the Heath Middle School lot. We will be broadcasting on your car's FM radio.

There are those who may consider this vote perfunctory. But it is a significant step into this next decade of your future together. You gathered to call me as your Senior Minister nearly ten years ago. Although one should never

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consider such a vote a “sure thing,” it is usually the result of a long process of discernment. The vote to call a minister is often an occasion to celebrate our covenant together and the consensus that has been reached. We voted with similar anticipation and joy when we first called Rev. Ben to join our staff as Associate Minister in 2012. Despite this pandemic wilderness we are navigating together, I trust this will be another occasion to celebrate the future we share.

With Great Hope,
 Rev. Nathan Miller

Below is the content of the two ballots that will be presented for your consideration at the congregational meeting on September 13:



Ballot #1:

I vote to amend Article V of the First Congregational Church Constitution and Bylaws, adding Section 6 (in red) as shown below.
(Vote Yes or No)

ARTICLE V—CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

SECTION 1 The Annual Congregational Meeting also called “annual meeting” shall be held in January on a date to be determined by the Cabinet.

SECTION 2 A Special Congregational Meeting may be called at any time by the Senior Minister and/or the Church Cabinet. The only matters to be considered at a special meeting will be those stated in the call to the meeting.

SECTION 3 Notice of all Congregational Meetings must be given to all active members not less than two weeks before the meeting stating the purpose, time, and place of the meeting. Notice may be given by hand delivered or electronic mail, publication in the Church newsletter and on the web site, and by publication in the Church Bulletin on the two Sundays prior to the meeting.

SECTION 4 All official Congregational Meetings must be held on the Church premises.

SECTION 5 All officers and members of the Cabinet, Board of Trustees, and Delegates to the Rocky Mountain Conference shall be elected at the Annual Congregational meeting.

SECTION 6 [proposed] In extraordinary circumstances, the Church Cabinet is permitted to call for a congregational vote on specific issues by mail and/or electronic means. All other requirements for advance notice of the nature of the business spelled out in Article V, Sections 2 and 3, of the Constitution will apply. Article V, section 4 would be suspended for such votes.

Ballot #2:

I vote to call the Rev. Ben Konecny as Minister - Head of Staff effective January 1, 2021.
***(Vote Yes, No, or indicate that you voted by mail
 and are simply registering your presence at the meeting.)***

Minister, Head of Programs

Search Process Update



The Selection Team continues to receive profiles for the Minister, Head of Programs position. We are excited about the conversations we have had so far with individuals interested in this position. Please continue to hold the Selection Team in your prayers as we discern who God is calling to join us to be a part of our continued vitality and faithfulness as a church family!

Family Faith Formation News

Sunday Faith Formation for all ages will continue in a new format starting next Sunday, August 30, at 11:30 a.m.

(This is incorrectly printed as 10:30 on the postcard our families received in the mail.)



We will still remain online via Zoom but will participate in a new curriculum from SHINE, adapted for virtual use. All participants will begin in a large group together for a time of opening,

including prayer, music, and hearing the day's story. Then we will join breakout rooms for our age groups (ages 3-k, 1-3 grade, and 4-5 grade), then close our time together again as a large group.

More details (including Zoom link) will be coming to you via email this week.

Youth groups will continue to meet over Zoom on Wednesday and Sunday nights. 6:00 p.m. for middle school, 7:00 p.m. for high school.

Our family faith formation team has been brainstorming ideas for how our fall quarter family events will look, and we are excited to roll out some surprises for you soon!

Sunday Virtual Fellowship Time

Starting September 20, we will have a weekly ZOOM fellowship time on Sundays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. We

hope this will be another way for our church family to remain connected while we are unable to be together in person. The ZOOM link will be included in the email blast on Friday, September 18.



Welcome Jackie Russo

Due to family circumstances beyond her control, Sandi Olsen was forced to resign from the financial secretary position shortly after she started. We wish her well in her future endeavors.

We have now hired Jackie Russo to take over the position, and she is currently in training with Linda Johnson.

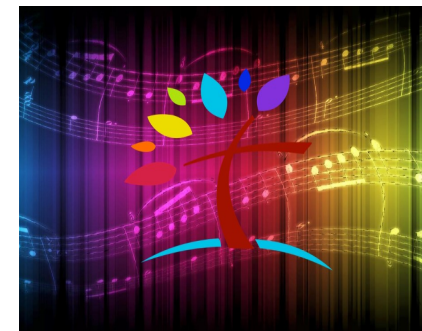


Jackie grew up in Michigan. Her times living in Spain and the Netherlands were some of the best of her life. Her family came to Colorado six years ago, and she enjoys the mild winters but misses large bodies of water!

She and her husband have been married for 16 years and have two boys, ages 8 and 4, along with a furry kid, Buster the golden retriever. She holds degrees from Aquinas College and Franklin University, and her last concert (long ago) was Bon Jovi in Pittsburgh. She is excited to be part of the First Congregational Community and looks forward to meeting you when the time is right.

Music in the Time of COVID

In this time, we must not forget to "Sing unto the Lord a NEW song." In this case, the "new" will be a completely new and different way to experience and participate in sacred choral music at our church. The pandemic has altered our lives greatly and given us opportunities to find other ways of worshiping and making music together. Though we would much rather rehearse and perform in person at worship services, we have to take things in a different direction. Kim and I are excited to roll out our choir program (Covid Edition) starting in September that will endeavor to keep us singing and producing great music for worship. The



chancel choir and the chapel choir will be invited to submit a monthly video that will be combined with others to produce a virtual choir performance of a chosen anthem. We will also choose four new choral scholars from the voice students at UNC who will contribute to the virtual choir, assist in producing rehearsal videos for choir members to practice their parts, and record several quartets and solos a month. Many church members have stepped up and provided music all summer, and to them a huge thank you! Many others have expressed interest in forming small groups to make worship content for the weekly service stream. Kim and I will coordinate all these efforts and would love to hear from you if you are interested in some small group work. So, in this way, we forge forward to worship the Lord with our voices in a new way and join together in virtual community, until we meet again in the flesh.

—Derek Chester

Greetings FCC Families,

We hope this message finds you all well and healthy. As we approach the fall choir season, we are sad not to be able to sing together but we are hopeful that we can connect with your singers at a deeper personal level.



Mrs. Shona and I have been planning ways to still provide opportunities for musical and vocal growth but we are going to focus more on growing our choir community.

We also want to provide singers the opportunity to virtually perform solo or in very small groups during our virtual service if they desire. This is a great opportunity to contribute their musical talent singing and/or playing an instrument to our Sunday services. Mrs. Shona and I can guide and support them.

We hope to be back in person in January but right now we want to maintain our connections and work on making the best virtual opportunities possible.

If you are reading this newsletter online (PDF version only), please take a moment to fill out [this survey](#) as we decide how to move forward in the fall with our kids and youth choirs.

If you are reading a paper copy of the Bell and are interested in learning more about the children and youth music program, please contact Wanda or Shona at the email addresses below.

Thanks in advance for all your support,

Wanda and Shona

wanda.vasquezgarcia@gmail.com

shonarg@comcast.net

Weld Food Bank Backpack Program

The Backpack Program provides food for children who are at risk for hunger over the weekend. The Food Bank works with school counselors and teachers to identify students who are in great need of food and provide them with shelf-stable milk, juice, a high protein meal, and three or four snacks to take home on Fridays. A \$100 donation supports one student for the school year. Our goal is to support 101 students this year! Donations of any amount can be dropped off in the church office.

