

Dear friends,

Our country's election has been a deeply fracturing experience for our nation and communities everywhere, including our own. Whether disappointed or glad about the election results, it is an important time to ask, "What's next?"

As a pastor, I sense God's call for our church to be part of the healing work that is needed in our community, as source of hope, and at work for the wellbeing of all. Our "Purpose & Pathways" statement can remind us of what kind of community God has called us to be in this moment:

As a community of Christ's disciples, we joyfully participate in Christ's mission of love and peace, transformation and hope by:

- inviting and welcoming all people into a life with God and a caring fellowship of faith;
- glorifying God through engaging worship, prayer, and praise;
- nurturing the spiritual growth of people of all ages and equipping them for lives of ministry, and;
- following the Spirit to witness to God's Kingdom through compassion, justice, and service.

In what ways do you feel called to help make our congregation a place where all can find a sense of belonging, peace, dignity, and respect, welcomed fully and completely into our faith community?

How do you feel called to help make our worship a time that unites us in our praise of God and encourages us in our commitment to the ways of God's Kingdom?

Where do you sense God's leading to help make our congregation a place where every person can be invited into a life of faith, experience growth in discipleship, and be prepared to use their gifts to participate in God's work in our congregation and in the larger world?

And in what ways do you feel God's strong leading to join with others in our church family to fight for justice, bring compassion to individuals and communities that need healing, and serve the suffering in ways that bring transformation to lives and our world?

Take the time you need after this difficult election season to care for yourself and check in with others. And when you are ready, ask God to guide you in answering the question, "What's next?" Then come and talk to me about how we can pray and work together to help our church be the community of love and peace, transformation and hope, that God is calling us to be.

With hope in the power of Christ,

Pastor Ginger