

Z-Notes

From Pastor Zomermaand



Greetings, RPC Friends!

We kicked off the *Best Year Ever* last Sunday. I'm not a betting person, but with the support of RPC folk, we are expecting the Jags to make it to Super Bowl LV. Hey, why not set our sights high?!? We are beginning a slightly more-likely worship series this week I am calling *2020 Vision*. Pastor Bill Hoff and I are going to spend seven weeks thinking and chatting about where we are as a church and where we hope to head this year and in the years to come. We are drawing our starting points for each week from the input you gave us on last fall's congregational survey. You all control how helpful and effective this endeavor turns out to be. You will have more opportunities to share and discuss your thoughts. I'm willing to bet that this exercise will be a winner.

We will zero in on these seven themes between January 12 and February 23: **1)** Valuing traditional worship while being more open to new expressions of worship; **2)** Holding onto our Biblical/theological heritage while being open to folks who don't share our traditions; **3)** Existing and ministering in a neighborhood/community with a transient population and ever-changing needs; **4)** Being socially engaged without being intentionally partisan; **5)** Securing the financial resources to sustain ministry in a strategically-located but aging structure; **6)** Strengthening the relationship between RPC and RPDS in mutually beneficial ways; **7)** Meeting the needs of older members and attracting and discipling younger participants. Each week, we will offer the opportunity to gather during the Sunday morning educational hour for extended interaction on each of these themes.

This week, we are dealing with Theme #1. You are invited to join me in Room 302/303 during the Educational Hour to share your thoughts on the matter. Here are **a couple of prompts** for preparatory consideration: 1) What are the elements of traditional worship that draw you closer to God? 2) What are some new elements of worship that you would like RPC to consider? There are no right or wrong responses to these questions. I want to use them as a starting point for our interactions. If you are not able to participate in these group sessions, I invite you to write your responses and send them to me at the email address given below.

I know it is still early in the year, but we have to make good use of this segment of *Ordinary Time*. I also know that you don't want to be reminded so soon after the Christmas holiday; but the season of Lent begins at the end of February and ushers us quickly into Easter...and summertime. Whether I like it or not, we need to be that proactive in our advance planning. Stuff just seems to keep happening, more quickly now than previously (or so it seems). I like to be as far ahead of the eight ball as I can be. Humor me with your attention and your participation as we begin 2020: *The Best Year Ever* at RPC. So far.

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