

Stories of Peace

Bob Lange

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- Why we came to Peace
 - Moved to SC Fall 2017, visited several Churches
 - Messiah Sunday 2017 – I think this is our place.
 - Next Sunday – Bonnie at school, I attended alone
Lori, Art and Jazz on High performed
 - Following week, Bonnie and I together.
 - Next week, Bonnie alone, I was traveling, Lori, Art, and Jazz on High performed. Bonnie asked – “Why didn’t you tell me “Aretha Franklin” is at that Church?
 - Music feeds my spiritual need; that is why we joined.
- Church’s elected leadership
 - Bonnie and I attended Dave Grishaw-Jones’ new members’ classes and were accepted as members Easter Sunday, 2018.
 - Dave and Speed Leas asked me to be on the Parrish Personnel Relations Committee (PPARC) and (soon after) the Transition Team. I agreed.
 - Soon after, Cathy Sarto asked me if I’d agree to me Vice-Moderator.
 - I thought there must be a shortage of volunteers to serve the Church and its Mission.
 - I think what I learned: in addition to elected leadership there are many ways in which many members serve the Church and its Mission. Interesting and

impressive. Particularly the “Jail Ministry” and AFC dinner and shelter Sunday nights.

- I observe, we are sometimes not kind or respectful of one another.
 - I’d like to think of Peace Pods as a start of the learning process to respectfully listen and interact with grace and kindness to one another.
 - Thanks to Pastor Dave for initiating the “Stories of Peace” series. Let’s support him in making the project as effective as possible.
 - There are no “Us” and “Them” here. There are no “They” or “Those People” here. We are all in this together.
 - I look forward to reading the collected work product at its end.
- What lies ahead?
 - At the beginning of a new chapter in Church life, new Minister.
 - Re-opening post-Covid with live worship and simulcast. A great enabler for broader reach and greater effectiveness. Thanks to Pastor Dave for the vision.
 - Possibly a new use of the campus with an associated revenue stream. The developer’s financial models are varied and complex; too complex to describe here. In the original co-living model a “base” assumption set yields about \$400,000 annually over a 55 year lease period. The “risk” assumption set yields about

\$62,000 annually over that period.

- Consideration and discernment of “Peace Village”.
There are opportunities and risks. We must understand both aspects of our decision.