

BLESSINGS ALWAYS

May 12, 2021

Association Minister Message

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REPLACEMENT(S). “When they cast lots, the lot fell on Matthias. He was added to the eleven apostles.” Act 1:26. The 58th Annual Meeting of NWOA was done virtually this year on April 24, 2021. This was the second consecutive meeting and only meetings in NWOA’s history not done in person. Much took place and much was accomplished. The words of Luke in Acts 10 caught my attention. Shortly after the Resurrection and after Pentecost, the actions (Acts) of the Apostles were about finding a *REPLACEMENT* for Judas Iscariot “who turned away to go to his own place.” In a sense, the Board of Directors of the early Christians had a vacancy

Whether in families or business, when there is a loss of a family member or a member of the corporate structure, some things do not get done or cannot get done as they have always been done. Families miss their loved ones but the role that loved ones did for the family are often “passed on” to another relative such as matriarch/patriarch. When employees leave, a job description is posted for applicants and a *REPLACEMENT* is found. Sometimes positions are eliminated and work is assigned to other employees or just not done and *workplace crunch* happens causing low morale.

Luke records that there were at least two candidates considered as *REPLACEMENTS*: Justus and Matthias. They both had qualifications to be selected: 1) journeyed with Jesus when He was alive, and 2) they were witnesses (spokespersons) to Jesus’s resurrection. However, there was danger being a follower of Jesus and especially to be part of the *leadership team*. The early Christians were targets for persecution which could lead to death.

The Christian Faith Community continues to need *REPLACEMENTS* to carry on the mission and ministries of the Resurrection message. The organizational tasks of NWOA continue as persons are elected to various leadership positions of the association. We thank those who have shared with us their skills, thoughts and time to continue the work of NWOA in the past, now and hope for the future. Every position is a calling to ministry and continue doing the work of care, stewardship, ministry, faith formation, ministerial formation and authorization, mission partnerships and ministries that give testimony to resurrection faith that proclaims the living Christ among us. We, too, have the hope that there will always be *REPLACEMENTS* to bring the love of God made known in Jesus Christ into God’s future. There will always be opportunities to share the resurrection message of God’s amazing grace and love. We all are called to be “*added to the eleven apostles.*” *BLESSINGS ALWAYS.*