

April 8, 2023

Dear Beloved of God,

At their retreat in January, your Session committed to writing a transparent, informational, and pastoral letter to help the congregation heal and come to some sense of closure concerning the conflicts of the past two years. After many hours and numerous renditions, the letter is enclosed. It has been a difficult task. Your leaders understand that many people on all sides of the conflict are hurting, angry, or confused. They know it is impossible to write anything that will please everyone. Yet they believe that keeping a written record of learnings and commitments will be helpful as we move into the future.

The Session hopes you will receive this letter as an invitation to conversation. They want your feedback. What in this letter is affirming and healing for you? What raises questions or concerns? The Session will host a forum on Sunday, April 16, after worship for anyone who wants to discuss the letter's contents. If this time doesn't work for you, please contact the church office, and we will try to schedule another opportunity.

Remember God's words from Jeremiah:

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (29:11-14)

Please consider your response to the Session's invitation and join them for a meaningful and hopefully healing conversation.

Peace,
Peggy