Our Board held our annual retreat in November. Our regular meetings are held in the Oneto room but we retreated, this time, to the cozy choir nook.

We used this time, usually just a chance for the board to get to know each other better, as a chance to tackle a number of possible changes to our bylaws. The previous Board had already done a lot of work to match our bylaws up to the way we conduct ourselves in real life which means that we were able to accomplish a lot. The proposed changes are still in Draft form. Once they are finalized we will vote on them, either at a special congregational meeting or at our annual meeting in June.

In the coming months we will be introducing the changes we propose. I hope that this will be a chance for everyone to examine our foundational document with us. “Bylaws” sounds a bit dry and formal, but in truth it's the framework which our community rests upon. Our bylaws help us live out our mission in practical and concrete ways, like having a building and staff, and in nourishing and interpersonal ways like having a Committee on Ministry and a Committee on Right Relations. I encourage anyone who isn't familiar with them to check them out.

During our retreat we got down to business. We made a lot of progress on the bylaw changes and in the process we did get to know each other better. Working together face-to-face with the common good in mind is satisfying. Our mutual understanding was improved and we were able to give time and attention to the details. Thanks to the Board and to all those who support us!