Mission Moment and Celebration of the WISE Team
Liz Curry - January 9, 2022

WISE is an acronym that calls for a congregation to find ways to welcome, include, support, and engage people of all abilities including those with mental health challenges in the life and ministry of the local and wider church. This became a focus for the national setting in 2015 when a resolution was passed at the General Synod "to develop a network of churches that are welcoming, inclusive, supportive, and engaged (WISE) for Mental Health."

 Becoming a WISE congregation was brought to our attention when Michael Curry made a presentation to the board and introduced the congregation to the idea of Shadow Rock becoming a WISE Congregation back in October 2021. The board voted unanimously to move forward with the process of becoming a WISE Congregation. The WISE team then reached out to the United Church of Christ Mental Health Network and our team has chosen to expand our focus to also include people facing physical challenges.

Our overriding goal is to provide a refuge for people with mental and physical health challenges through education as well as providing support groups for people who are directly impacted and for those who provide care for them.

NAMI (The National Association for Mental Illness) is excited to partner with us as we move forward. We are planning a Mission Moment and hope to publish a monthly article in Rock the Week. The Shadow Rock WISE team meets twice a month and meetings are held virtually.

Our team is very excited about the opportunities awaiting all of us as we continue to explore ways in which we can welcome, include, support, and engage the members and friends of our congregation and the wider community who are facing mental health and physical challenges. We encourage you to reach out to one of us to share your story and to offer suggestions as we move forward in this process together.

We recognize and appreciate the contributions of the WISE team - joining me are Ted Davault , Peg Hesley, and Greg Rampley.