

My dear friends,

Are you familiar with the daily meditations from the Center for Action and Contemplation? Several recent meditations authored by Fr. Richard Rohr seemed to be straight out of the playbook for what I was needing. Perhaps, this will resonate with you.

Immediately after the temptation in the desert, Jesus goes out to Galilee and there he begins to preach. His initial preaching is summed up in the verse, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand" "Repent" (or metanoia in Greek) means to turn around, to change. The first word that comes out of Jesus' mouth is change—be willing to change.

And another:

We have been caught off guard, ambushed. When we are lulled into believing we are in control and everything is going great, we lose sight of God. God has gotten our attention. Consider this a divine ambush.

This has been a week of compartmentalizing my feelings. Grieving juxtaposed with hopefulness. With God-given certitude, **We Are Moving Forward**. Let me illustrate this sense of **Moving Forward**. The Executive Board met Tuesday and remains in solidarity with the Unified Plan. Is future discernment needed? Yes and **We Are Moving Forward**. A group of BCC spiritual leaders met with me on Wednesday to discuss the next steps in our collective healing and **Moving Forward**. The Stewardship Committee is **Moving Forward** with plans focused on time, talent and treasure. Wait until you see what they have planned on April 16th at our first unified service. The Elders are gathering tonight to prayerfully discern how they can undergird our **Moving Forward**. God placed Disciples of Christ national leaders before me offering support in our **Moving Forward**. An Interim Minister Search Committee will be formed in the very near future as **We Move Forward**. God is working overtime for the Kingdom as **We Move Forward**.

The words of Teresa of Avila ring so true. *Christ has no body now but ours. He prays in us, works in us, looks through our eyes, speaks through our words, works through our hands, walks with our feet and loves with us here.*

My prayer for BCC remains.

Comforter, Restorer God.

Take our hands. Guide our steps. Lead us beyond fear. Give courage and strength and hope to our hearts and spirits. In the name of Jesus, we all say together, AMEN.

Mary Cunningham-Board Chair