



July 15, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of UCC,

We hope and pray this finds you doing well and staying safe. If you would have told us back in March when we had to suspend in-person worship that we'd still be out in the middle of summer, few would believe that to be possible. Yet, that's where we are.

As we have said from the beginning, your safety, as well as the health of the church staff and wider community is our highest priority. With the data provided by the medical experts that the numbers of cases and hospitalizations due to the coronavirus still on the rise the decision has been made to continue offer worship online and on the radio for the time being.

As you know, a task force has been working hard to create a plan so that when it is safe for us to come together again, we can do so as safely and as responsibly as possible.

Recently that task force presented a phased approach to the Board of Stewards, which accepted and approved that plan. A quick outline of that plan is attached to this letter. You'll notice that there are no dates on that chart. We will continue to be data-driven rather than date-driven.

Our hope is to move from Phase I – where we are currently – to Phase II the week of August 17. But, as you know, plans can always change if needs arise. So, we will continue to watch the data to see when it will be safe to take that step. We will continue to keep you informed.

In the meantime, we are as active as we have ever been. In addition to offering worship online and on the radio, we are fully engaged with our ministry partners around the city, doing our best to reach out to help those who need help and hope the most in the city of Fort Worth. We continue to find new ways to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

We also want to take a moment to talk about finances. Certainly, we've been impacted by this global pandemic and the recession that has come about as a result. But the good news is that this congregation has continued to be faithful and generous. Your generosity has enabled us to maintain a healthy financial position and we are even *ahead* of budget year to date in support of the ministries we share together! Because of you all and how you share God's abundance in your lives, we began the year in a very strong and healthy financial position that allowed us to step up immediately in response to urgent needs in our community. Our Outreach Ministry has

allocated on your behalf over \$250,000 to date, and with your continued support, we are on track to provide funding for needs both globally and here in our own community of over \$600,000 this year.

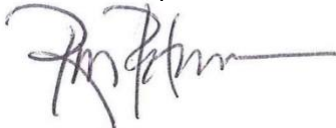
Thank you SO MUCH for continuing to support the mission and ministry of this congregation. It matters now more than ever!

Our incredible church staff has been working hard to keep you connected and engaged. They've been creative and nimble and have adapted to this new way of being church. We are proud of each and every one of them, and trust you are too. We hope you'll join us in expressing your appreciation.

Finally, if there is any way that we can help you or if you have ideas on how we can engage people better, please let us know.

Until we can safely gather together again, our model and methods have changed, but our mission has not. We are continuing, in new and exciting ways, to seek the sacred, commit to love, and empower to serve so that through us the world will be transformed as we live out Christ's courageous love.

Grace and peace,



Rev. Dr. Russ Peterman
Senior Minister



David Nolan
Chair, Board of Stewards