



## From the President – April, 2017

It's April, and there's lots to talk about. First off, the annual congregational meeting will be immediately after the service on Sunday, May 21. It's important that you be there so we will have a quorum. We will be voting on new board members, making minor bylaw changes, reviewing what's happened this year, and looking forward to next year.

The Nominating Committee has named the following candidates for Board positions. Jim Lenox and Logan Heley have been nominated for two-year terms. Jo Ella Hoyer, who was named to the board last fall when a new member had to resign, will be on the ballot for the second year of her term. Nancy Mays has agreed to stand for election as vice-president. She will serve three years, as vice-president, president, and then past president. Daniella Williams and Scott Sovereign have been named as candidates to serve on the Nominating Committee. Please thank these people when you see them.

In other news we'd like to encourage you to explore Realm, the church's new communications software program. More than 200 of us still have not signed into Realm. Realm allows you to communicate with the groups you are part of at church, whether it be a book club or the Social Justice Committee. It enables you to easily find contact information of other church friends and members who have permitted, through Realm's rigorous security protocols, their details to be visible to other church members. And it has a full, up-to-date accounting of your financial contributions. It's faster to look on Realm for that information than it is to call Deb Markum in the church office, although she is happy to help you as well. You can also make pledge payments on Realm and sign up for church events.

As Rev. Rose mentioned in worship recently, the church has a new rental policy. Members are entitled to one free rental a month as long as higher-priority rental needs are met first. Contact Facilities Manager Jay Hetz for more information. The policy will also soon be posted to the church website.

And finally, we are nearing the halfway point of our spring fund drive. Early results are encouraging. We are asking folks to increase their pledges by 10 percent, if possible, so that we can hire two part-time staff—a Membership Coordinator and an Office Assistant, to help Rev. Rose and Deb, and to help create more programming for all of us. In addition, we hope to give our staff cost of living increases. We're trying hard to treat our staff fairly and to see that no one is overburdened. We owe it especially to Rev. Rose to bring in staff to share the workload so she can focus on the critical tasks of ministry in a congregation of our size. We're asking her to do a lot and we need to make her workload sustainable.

So please make your pledges soon. There are paper forms at the Visitors' Table at church. You can also pledge online through Realm or through the church website. We will soon begin calling those folks who have not pledged and we'd appreciate your help in making that number as small as possible. We need this church community to be strong and vital for the times ahead. You have the power to make it so. Think about what the church means to your family and do what you can to help our dreams come true.

With love,

Marjorie Rice, President

