



February 28, 2018

THIS SATURDAY, THE FUTURE AWAITS

This Saturday, members and friends of the church will gather for a morning planning retreat at the church, and you are invited to join the discussion about our congregation's faith, foundation, and future. The retreat runs all morning – from 8:00 a.m. until noon, but if you can't come early, please join us at 11:00 a.m. for the closing conversation about our church's future.

Saturday Church Planning Retreat – 8:00 a.m. to Noon

8:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast
8:20 a.m.	Introduction: Foundations of Faith
10:00 a.m.	Foundations in Church Ministry
11:00 a.m.	Future of the Hills Church

RSVP to Cynthia Gordan: cynthia@hillschurch.org

One of the defining traits of the Congregationalist Church is the conviction that every member of the community has an important voice. In the 17th century, the early Congregationalists in New England put aside the hierarchical church tradition they'd left behind. The legacy of this tradition is the conviction that God is heard most clearly when the community joins in discussion and discernment together.

In fact, I have found that it's not even necessary to arrive at the conversation with a viewpoint that you are ready to share. Trusting that the Holy Spirit works among us, the conversation usually produces more than the sum of individual ideas. That's why we value conversation over a suggestion box or an online survey.

Of course, planning for the future is always a tricky business. There's the old saying that if you want to make God laugh, just explain your plans. There will certainly be unforeseen developments. But it is always important to renew our sense of how God is leading this congregation from our faithful foundations into our future.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister