

Message from the Office of the Moderator - July 2017

Dear Fellow Church Members and Friends,

Greetings to all of you in the midst of a lazy, hazy, or crazy summer – depending on what you’ve been up to.

July 1 came and went and I discovered I had “risen” from the position of Rising Moderator to Moderator. Poof! (You may recall that Steve Harris was elected Rising Moderator to follow Linda Thomas, however, Steve relocated to Florida last winter just as I was being asked to follow in his footsteps. Linda graciously agreed to serve an additional six months, giving me time as her apprentice.)

Linda led us faithfully and well, and I am more than grateful for her service to the church as a whole and to the Church Council in particular. I am delighted to report that she will continue in the Office of the Moderator as Moderator Emerita, and my back-up, side-kick, mentor, and spiritual guide.

There is still lots going on within our church community this summer – even as worship services are somewhat smaller and church school is in recess. The search for a settled Minister of Youth and Families is actively underway. Church Council, in coordination with the Property Maintenance Ministry Team, issued a Request for Proposals for a consultant to prepare a Facilities Condition Assessment Plan (FCAP) for all of the major infrastructure systems in the church, e.g., heating, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing, electrical. The FCAP will examine systems throughout the church complex, including the sanctuary, assembly room, parish house, and Wallace Chapel. Habitat for Humanity volunteers participated in a “build day” in Holliston on July 22, with lunch provided by a member of the congregation.

Pre-planning is underway for Rally Day (September 10), for a retirement send-off for our beloved Rev. Dr. Pashington Obeng (October 29), and for a special Ministry Team event called *Time, Talents, and Tacos* (October 1). Note that TTT (*Time, Talents and Tacos*) is the new and improved “Game Day,” a day to celebrate the work of our many Ministry Teams, to share their enthusiasm for what they do, and for you and members of your family to join a Ministry Team, or two, or three. Oh, and there’ll be plenty of tacos to munch on, too.

Our focus in the coming season/year will be on building community within our church. You will hear plenty from the clergy and others on this theme but you will also hear it from the Office of the Moderator. One of the real strengths of our congregation at the Hills Church is our long tradition of working together toward common goals. We want to share that tradition more broadly, with activities and worship among and between existing Ministry Teams, among and between different generations in our church, and among and between other communities of faith. I look forward to hearing from you about your ideas for building community. It won’t be a community without YOU.

Faithfully,



Janeen S. Hansen,
Moderator