



January 22, 2020

NO FUNNY HATS REQUIRED

We have friends who created a great ritual for family meetings. With two young sons at home, and the need to occasionally bring everyone together around the kitchen table to discuss upcoming schedules or plans for a birthday party, they thought that if everyone wore a funny hat, then family meetings would have more appeal. Each child and parent found a special hat for family meetings. Wearing the hats meant that it was time for all of them to listen well, and to contribute their own thoughts, questions, and affirmations.

The Annual Meeting of our congregation will be held this Sunday, January 26, just after 11:00 a.m. When the moderator calls the meeting to order, it will be time for us to listen well to one another, and to contribute our own thoughts, questions, and affirmations.

Imagine the excitement and freedom that our congregational ancestors must have felt about church meetings: the privilege and responsibility of self-governance after lifetimes of priestly and aristocratic rule. We get to tell our own stories, elect representatives from among ourselves, and make important decisions together!

This Sunday, we will hear and act on important matters of our church's life and ministry, which have been carefully researched and prepared by amazing members of the congregation; we will affirm fellow members to new offices of ministry; and we will recognize and celebrate the ministries of two staff members who have served the church for ten years, as well as the retirement of our church treasurer who has held the office since the last century.

In a return to an older practice, we will gather in the Assembly Room, where we may enjoy a light lunch around tables while we meet. Child care will be provided, although children are also welcome to attend. We hope that sharing a meal will enhance our community and make participation easier for all.

Hats are not required.

I'll see you in church.

Peace,

Rev. Dr. Matthew Wooster
Senior Minister