



Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith

Who could have thought, back in March of 2020, that more than a year and a half later we would still be in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, beset by dangerous new variants and the fourth wave? Who could have thought that the greatest public health challenge would not be developing a vaccine against the virus, but persuading enough people to be injected with the scientifically-proven, safe and effective vaccine? Who could have thought that we would be compelled by public health considerations to hold not just one, but two, annual meetings of Shining Waters Regional Council online, rather than in person? Surely, we live in trying times.

But who could have thought that, despite the time of trial, we could pursue and accomplish important purposes – such as the adoption and implementation of an equity action plan; such as the creation of an Intercultural Diversity Commission; such as a Regional priorities exercise to guide our funding support for various ministries, and to clarify primary responsibility within our structure in areas of shared responsibility; such as beginning the move to a new model of long-term financial stability for Shining Waters, by working in partnership with the United Property Resource Corporation to develop certain regionally-owned properties so as to generate ongoing revenues rather than one-time cash proceeds from the sale of the properties; such as gaining comfort with online tools to connect and support clergy and lay leaders, to achieve efficiencies in our administrative and governance activities, and to conduct one, and about to be two, remarkably successful Regional Council meetings.

This meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council will have three main purposes. We will consider a number of proposals addressed to the Regional Council or the General Council. We will consider a draft multi-year budget. And we will receive nominations, and elect new leaders to the governance structure of Shining Waters Regional Council. There is a time for every purpose.

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