



April 20, 2020

Dear Friends,

The elected leaders of SPRC and the ad hoc Executive Team of Richfield UMC continue to collaborate in considering all the factors that bring steadiness and well-being to the church. The long-term financial stability of the church is central to living into our mission of growing in love of God and neighbor, reaching new people, and healing a broken world as we live in faith, justice, and joy. We write to you now in these unprecedented times of the Covid-19 pandemic and uncertain days ahead.

We have been trying to limit the impact of the situation on our paid staff and have found that is no longer possible. As you know, our campus is operating at a much-reduced capacity as we have suspended most onsite activities and in-person worship. Caring for Children early learning center is running far below capacity, resulting in some CFC staff being furloughed. We also put a hold on the CFC tuition increase which means, unfortunately, that we put our plans for pay increases on hold. And today, we reduced the hours of some church staff positions for the foreseeable future.

Your financial stewardship of the church continues to matter in the life of the church. As mentioned, CFC revenues are significantly impacted, as are revenues from on-campus user groups. While giving patterns have not had dramatic disruptions since this pandemic came to Minnesota's front door, we also are doing our best to be prepared for the road ahead. This decision is made to help our church maintain financial stability not just in the short-term but in the long-term, particularly as the duration and scope of "long-term" is sadly still unknown. It is imperative that our church remains strong in this time, and that includes financially.

While this is challenging for our church and for the staff, please know we value each of our paid staff and the gifts and commitment they have shown to Richfield UMC over the years. We are committed to revisiting this decision in approximately 60 days to reevaluate the situation and will update you on or before June 30.

Please respect the privacy of the paid staff and treat this matter for them as confidential and private, thank you. In the meantime, please know we are doing what we always strive to do: be good stewards of your financing resources and make sound, prayerful decisions as the elected leaders and pastor of your church. May we continue taking steps together as the church.

In Christ,

Jan Kirchner
Chair, SPRC | kirchner.jan@gmail.com
952.944.2526

Rev. Nate Melcher
Senior Pastor | nmelcher@richfieldumc.org
612.861.6086 Office | 612.399.6272 Mobile