



July 5, 2020

Dear Richfield UMC,

Friends, I want to thank you for one year together since I became your new senior pastor on June 30, 2019. No one expected we'd spend so much forced time apart, yet I am grateful for the creative ways we are finding to get connected. Let's continue to grow as a faith community focused on loving God and neighbor, reaching new people, and healing a broken world together!

Thank you for continuing your financial support of your church this summer. For many churches, including our own, the summer season often means lower worship attendance and ministry participation. Additionally, there is often a significant dip in giving as a result, and that reflects what typically happens in your church, too. This summer season, however, is like none in our lifetime. Your generosity keeps the ministry, outreach, and operations of your church strong and more prepared to step into a breakthrough future with God, thank you.

You'll recall from my letter dated April 20, 2020 that some CFC staff have been furloughed and some church staff positions saw a reduction in hours. As we move into July, this picture is changing. CFC is gradually seeing both returning students and new students. Some furloughed CFC staff are returning to work as a result. Likewise, church staff positions which saw a reduction are returning to their original or close to original levels. The Ad Board and ad hoc Executive Team continue to explore the future of the planned CFC tuition increase and planned staff pay increases that were put on hold this spring as pandemic concerns came to Minnesota. We are grateful to have a paid staff who are working hard on your behalf to keep our church operations going strong. Please be sure to reach out and thank them for their hard work whenever you can!

Your Regathering Taskforce is working hard to develop a plan with Ad Board to determine our next steps forward. They are looking at the big questions of regathering for in-person ministry, worship, and other campus gatherings, not only "how" and "when" but especially "why" so our plan meets our missional goals. We will be asking for your feedback soon. Our goal is to have an announcement for you sometime in mid-August. Thank you for your prayer and support.

Your financial stewardship of your church through your regular and committed giving, as well as special contributions, continue to keep your church on a steady path in these unsteady times. When much in this world is being disrupted, your faith-fueled, consistent support has remained steadfast and made the difference. Thank you for your extravagant generosity!

In Christ,

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