

RTG Council Report 121311

¹⁶“Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise the words of prophets, ²¹but test everything; hold fast to what is good; ²²abstain from every form of evil.

²³May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.”

The words from Sunday, (121111) are a very helpful reminder for days and nights of this holy season. I pray that they give you hope and strength as we draw near to the coming of the Lord.

People have asked me over the past few days and weeks, “are you packed, yet?” I smile and wish to myself that was the case. However, I suppose like Mary and Joseph even though they knew *it* was going to happen they didn’t make a reservation at the Motel VI in Bethlehem. Fortunately, my housing, flight and most other arrangements have been made. But, as I respond to parishioner and friends, lovely interrogatory statements, “I am trying to be present.” You know my love of wordplay and so I hear and see the word

“present” in a couple of ways. First of all, it can be a gift, as in *present*. And then, it can be broken in two, to be “pre-sent.” Through the waters of Holy Baptism we are called, gathered and *sent* for the sake of the world. So, I thank you for affirming that call which I have and for celebrating your call as sons and daughters of God. I know that Dr. Paul Hill and Dr. Mary Hinkle Shore are going to assist you and the congregation as you think and pray about Sabbath and Signs of Belonging.

I thank you in advance for being supportive of Pastor Ruth Ann and Joel, as well as the entire paid staff and all the volunteers at BLC. I’m grateful for the service of our outgoing council members: Becky Godec; Heather Kekstadt; Bill King; and Kevin McAuliffe. I want to extend a warm welcome to Jerry Beabout; David Furgason; Peg Kirchner; Glenn Truglio and Ted Ziemann.

As I do some “housekeeping” work, I do hereby appoint Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry as my “pastoral designee” according to the constitution:

C11.04.01. The Executive Committee of the Congregation Council shall consist of the officers of the congregation, the immediate past president, and the Senior Pastor. Each shall have one vote. Non-voting members could include the Director of Finance and Administration and additional pastors of this congregation.

C11.04.02. The Executive Committee of the Congregation Council shall not transact any business unless three of its six voting members are present. The Senior Pastor, or his pastoral designee, or President or Vice- President shall be two of the three required. Business will normally be conducted with the Senior Pastor present. The nature of such business shall be discussed with the Senior Pastor prior to any meeting that he is unable to attend.

C11.04.03. Meetings of the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council shall normally be held monthly. A special meeting may be called by the Senior Pastor, the President, or any three voting members of the

I am very grateful for the sabbatical time. You will be in my heart and prayers as I go about my journey in London.

God’s peace,
Pastor Ron Glusenkamp