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## February 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

I want to begin this letter by thanking you for your patience with me over the last two years – the pandemic and other aspects of my life have required a lot of my attention and I recognize the effects they have had on the community. I cannot change the past, but I am looking forward to being able to serve you in an increased capacity as the improving societal circumstances allow as the pandemic slowly comes to an end.

I also wanted to express my gratitude for the tireless work of our leadership team and our committed volunteers who have carried so much of the load over the last two years. Rachel, our Music director, has been tireless and creative in keeping you connected and filled with joyous song even as we had to remain apart. Pauline, our administrator, has kept the daily business of the church up to speed all the while taking on new duties as ministries stopped due to the pandemic. Nadia and volunteers who continued to serve the hungry with our monthly community lunch. Sylvia and a small team of Chancel Guild volunteers who kept all of our liturgical life and space in order amidst the chaos brought on by the pandemic.

Finally, special thanks has to go to our wardens Ryan and Jonelle. Being warden during ordinary time is challenging enough but during the pandemic they have had to shoulder so much more as new guidelines had to be followed and as they needed to fill in for some of you who could not fulfill your volunteer duties due to the pandemic. They have done all of this faithfully and tirelessly, but it has taken its toll on them. Both of them, while also juggling their own work and personal lives, are nearing burn out. In spite of this reality, both of them have offered to stay on and help steer this congregation into the future, but only if we are able to find them deputy wardens who can help lighten the load and assume the role of full Canonical Wardens next year.

I want to stress how important it is to be able to find leaders to assume this role. In a recent conversation with Bishop Kevin Robertson, he expressed his concern over Grace's inability to find and raise up new leaders. The inability to appoint/elect churchwardens raises questions about the viability of the parish, not something we want to hear after just celebrating our tenth anniversary. I know that many of you do have the gifts of administration and stewardship and your church **needs** you to step into leadership right now.

Unless we are able to find potential leaders before February 20<sup>th</sup>, we will have to delay our Annual Vestry Meeting, pending the Bishop's approval. This delay however is only a very short-term solution. I strongly encourage you to pray, to confer with one another and ultimately that some of you would offer yourselves as leaders at this time.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Graham McCaffrey

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*Our mission is to **worship** God and **proclaim** Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and to **embody** – in word and action – God's reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation, through which knowledge of God's reign is extended.*



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