

## Council Corner – November, 2023

As we close in on the end of 2023, the church program year is in full swing and vibrant. We find a ministry with strong energy in worship and activities. Rise Against Hunger and Intergenerational Bread baking were key activities for our Congregation in October and well attended. It is exciting to see the energy around our faith community, and we are hopeful it will build as we move through our pledge campaign, our search process for a new Director of Music, and growth in the coming year. Council is focused on the following key activities and goals:

*Stewardship* – Our stewardship committee is in full swing. This year's stewardship theme is Matthew 25: Join the Movement. Matthew 25 refers to the litany that we say most weeks before taking the offering that begins with, "I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink." Rock Spring is a Matthew 25 church, and we have been excited to see the resurgence this fall of people coming to church, caring for one another and the community around us. Council endorsed the twin goals of this year's stewardship campaign: to add 19 new pledging households to the 166 already pledging and for current pledgers to grow their pledge.

*Long-range Budgeting* – We are grateful for the work that the Finance Board has done to develop long-range budgeting models that envision a variety of scenarios, from worst case to best case. This work will help to keep Rock Spring on track towards meeting our financial goals. You can read more about it in the narrative budget that was sent to the congregation in October.

*Music Director Search Committee* – Now that Eduardo is in place as our Interim Director of Music, Council has turned its attention to filling and kicking off the Search Committee for our settled Music Director. We are very excited to start this process. As the search committee ramps up it will share its plan and activities with the congregation on this key hire for our community. Council approved the following members of the search committee: Dan Betts, Martha Jolkovski, Mary Kusler, Chris Maness, Al Olsen, and Megan Tetrick. We will commission their work in worship on Sunday, November 19.

*Nominations* – Council approved the following slate to serve as the Nominating Committee. We are grateful to these members for stepping forward and agreeing to support our process this year: Leslie Atkins, Katie Hopkins, Marty Stansell-Gamm, Lyndsey Ellis, and Betty Rasmussen.

Let all we do be done in love,

*Rob and Cheryl*