

Forging Forward

PLANNING & IMPLEMENTING

March 1, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of the Iglesia Presbiteriana Nuevas Fronteras,

It has been nearly a year since our congregation shifted online and our way of life as a community of faith changed so radically in response to the global public health crisis. This has been a season of struggle and heartbreak, yet also a time of resilience and faithfulness. I remain grateful for the ways that our community of faith has responded with diligence, creativity, and grace to persevere in the midst of incredibly challenging circumstances and to take the measures necessary to keep one another safe.

We see much cause for hope on the horizon that we will gradually be able to return to the facilities at 170 Watchung Avenue and develop new and creative worship and ministry experience. Yet we are also mindful that the pandemic is by no means nearing its conclusion. The more virulent strains of the virus are present in our region, and the vaccine rollout has been slower than anticipated. The impact of COVID-19 will be with us to some degree for some time to come. With this in mind, we continue to plan for the future with humility and flexibility.

It is our hope to return to our sanctuary sometime in mid-Summer or the beginning of September. In the interim, we are planning for certain renovations that will provide a safer environment for the multiple ministries. I will be requesting the Session to create a Health & Re-Integration Team to provide a strategy for a variety of scenarios for in-person worship, ministry activity, and learning for either mid-summer or the fall. Our plans will depend on public health conditions and the availability of the vaccine. This Health & Re-Integration Team will remain in close contact with our local public health officials about vaccine availability, which is currently very limited, and will continue to monitor opportunities for distribution as more supply becomes available.

We will continue to keep you informed as these plans unfold and will send another update in early April with more information. We know that everyone desires firm plans, yet this season reminds us to hold our plans with an open hand, as they are subject to many factors that are not within our control. I'm grateful to the dedicated people in our congregation who are working diligently to plan and prepare for all of us to experience this "new thing" God is creating in our midst. Thank you for your patience and perseverance in these challenging days, which require us to keep faith with one another and with the God who promises to sustain us in every season.

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