

First Christian Church Board Meeting

Elders Report, January 2021

Stephen Landale

I assumed the role of chair in December and have changed the structure of our 1 ½ hour, monthly meetings to begin with a check-in regarding the spiritual life of the congregation (December we reflected on "one challenge you see our church facing at this time, and one way God is at work with us, or at play." January: "How is our church (or how could it be) especially helpful to you and/or others during this crises in American Democracy?").

Meetings will then proceed with other topics related to the congregation, our ministries, and/or our role as elders – which was studied and discussed in 2019-20. While this conversation was not fully resolved, there was resonance in the group that central to our role is watching over the spiritual life of the congregation as a whole, and the new meeting structure reflects this focus.

We are still devoting time to discussing pastoral needs of individual members, but, at least for now, for 15-30 minutes at the ends of meetings. Response from the group to format changes was positive at the December meeting.

John Hazen and Janet Anderson will be triaging pastoral needs while the ministers take their respective sabbaths in January and February. We appreciate the extraordinary effort our ministers have provided during this pandemic.