



Dear Members of ERUUF,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Trustees to inform you of a special business meeting of the congregation which will be held on February 28, 2010, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. The agenda for the meeting includes the vote on our proposed new Bylaws (included in this mailing) and a report from the Finance Advisory Committee regarding the full audit of ERUUF's finances that was recently completed. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

A Bylaws Revision Task Force was charged by the Board of Trustees in March 2008 to undertake a comprehensive review and revision of our Bylaws, and specifically, "to formulate a thorough and complete revision of the current ERUUF Bylaws for the purpose of bringing this document into compliance with policy based governance and with best practice." The task force consisted of David Chandek-Stark (chair), Beth Harvat, Georgie Searles and Sher Daniel, and completed their work in February 2009 when they presented new draft Bylaws to the Board. Due to congregational conflict that touched on issues of governance, the Board decided to table those draft bylaws. In June 2009, with strong support from the congregation, the Board revived the Bylaws Task Force. Georgie Searles and Beth Harvat agreed to continue the work, and three new members were elected to the task force by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on June 14, 2009—Ross McKinney Jr., who was chosen as chair, Peter Aitken, and Rick Jamison.

The revived task force focused on soliciting congregational input, conducting a series of six open forums to help discover the Bylaws that make the most sense for our fellowship. These open meetings were very well attended and provided significant input to refine the Bylaws drafted by the original task force. The Conflict Resolution Task Force, charged by the Board in February 2009, provided other critical input. At our meeting on January 19, 2010, the Board voted to approve the new draft of the Bylaws with small revisions, and recommends that you vote to approve them. The Board of Trustees expresses deep gratitude for the care, diligence and integrity of the work of both of our Bylaws Task Forces.

The proposed Bylaws are more sparse than our current Bylaws. The intent was that the Bylaws cover only those matters that are the proper domain of Bylaws, and allow matters of practice to be defined in policies. Accordingly, a thorough understanding of how ERUUF will operate can best be achieved by reading the Governance Policies (available on the website) as well as the enclosed Bylaws. The congregational vote on the proposed new Bylaws will be a vote whether to accept the proposed Bylaws in their entirety, with no amendments.

Thank you for your care for the life of our congregation and your presence at this meeting.

In fellowship,

Cheryl Turney,

Secretary, Board of Trustees