



## Three C's of Covenant Life Together

**Message of Caution:** We are a people wrestling with what it means to be church as we embrace that church is not defined by our buildings. That being said, some of us are eager to return to our buildings. This week our governor again placed restrictions on gatherings. We invite us to continue to heed the warnings of public health officials. Churches may be exempt but we have lost members of our churches to COVID-19. Please resist rushing in – may we consider the care and concern for the most vulnerable in our pews and in the world. At minimum, honor the three Ws – wear masks, watch social distancing and wash hands. Let's beat this thing together.

**Message of Courage:** On the surge of racism - we are again haunted by the question - How does the church respond? We've heard this invitation before. What I will say is this – protests, placards, books are essential tools for a moment that can launch a movement – but they will not replace the hard relational work that needs to be done in each of our communities of faith – for it is there that trust can be found at an intimate and transformative way. As a presbytery leadership, we will model ways of engaging, we will provide training, resources and forums – but the work must take place in the pews of our churches. It will take the courage of a faithful people to engage uncomfortable conversations,

**Message of Care:** We may be a people who have leaned into our vows of energy, intelligence, imagination, and love – but we are also an exhausted people. And we all know that we are not at our best when we lead from exhaustion. We need to care for ourselves – finding sabbath is not an option for we are in this for the long haul. The families with children among us, will again be navigating schedules for school and home. The single adults among us are navigating the lack of human touch and presence. The older adults among us are vulnerable and can find themselves isolated. This is just hard.

Both pandemics will require our finding and maintain our spiritual center if we are to effectively and faithfully lead during this time. Our prayer is that the breath of heaven will continue to breathe new life upon our weary souls – and as the song says, may we feel God raising us up on eagles wings.

Grace and Peace

Rev. Ruth Faith Santana- Grace, Executive Presbyter

Rev. Kevin Porter, Stated Clerk