

If You See Something, Say Something!

Updating the First Church of Christ Bylaws

"BYLAWS BITS" FROM *THE SPIRE*, MARCH 2014

How often do we see the phrase "If you see something, say something" in today's media? When we see it we are immediately reminded of the events of September 11, 2001, and the aftermath, but that is not our focus here.

We are asking you to help the Bylaws Committee by sharing your insight and comments regarding the bylaws and by letting the Committee know the activities you experience or observe at our beloved First Church of

Christ that are of the greatest significance to you.

As explained briefly in the February issue of *The Spire*

DID YOU KNOW?

- Bylaws are a legal document.
- Anything not in our bylaws is determined by local, state and federal law.
- Bylaws are the primary way to legally protect our members.

firstchurch.org/bylawscommittee

and it members. Accordingly, having up-to-date, accurate bylaws that establish our guiding principles and relationships are beneficial to the entire congregation.

Happily, some have already shared their observations



(box at left), principles not established by bylaws could be determined by local, state or federal law, and bylaws are a good way to legally protect our church

and comments. We have become aware that the current bylaws do not specifically identify The First Church of Christ as a Congregational Church and that these bylaws do not specify that First Church is enabled and guided by the triune God through the Holy Spirit and the Bible. Through your sharing, the Committee is able to take into account your issues, observations and comments in its review and updating of the First Church Bylaws.

Unhappily, up until now, only a few of you have shared your insight. If you are not yet among those who have responded we *need* and *want* to hear from you, too.

The committee recognizes that as individuals, we are not all the same, that our needs and passions are different, and that each of us may hold different views of what is important and what is not. The Apostle Peter reminds us in 1 Peter 3:8 that we should strive to be harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate and humble. In addition, we should be prepared to hear, consider and respond to the views of others in the same way we would like to have our own insight, issues and passions heard, considered, and responded to by others.

The Committee—**Tina Balmer, Amber Bird, John Davis, Anton Hertle** and **Steve Soderberg**—encourages any First Church member to share his or her views regarding updating the bylaws. This can be done by mail, email, or notes to the Committee delivered to any Committee member, the Board chairperson, the chairperson of the Research and Long-Range Planning Committee (R&LRP), or the senior minister. Notes to the Committee may also be dropped off with the church receptionist, for the R&LRP mailbox. For your convenience, the current First Church Bylaws are posted on the Church website and are also available in the Church Library.