

# Team Work

“BYLAWS BITS”— MARCH 2015



The Bylaws Team has regularly solicited your observation and input, and increasingly members are responding with their views about how our everyday First Church activities are impacted, or could be impacted by the Bylaws.

Those of you who attended the Marsh Building Renovation Project authorization meeting on Sunday, March 8, heard several questions and other comments relating to our bylaws.

We are heartened by this elevated awareness and interest and thought that you would like to know how the Bylaws Committee is broadening its understanding of the issues facing the congregation and leadership.

In January, we started working with current officers, committees and ministries to identify, recognize and document their ***Purpose***, their ***Roles and Duties***, their ***Authority***, their ***Accountability***, and their ***Membership***. To accomplish this, we first reached out to the Finance and Property Committee and to the Trustees, requesting them to develop a Charter to identify the Who, What, Where, When, and Why of their activity.

In each case, we asked the individual or group to share with us what the current conditions of the activity might be, as well as their dreams and insights about what could make their goals easier to accomplish and more valuable to the church.

As they began their efforts, we also reached out to the current and most recent past First Church Treasurers, asking them to do

the same thing, and we have recently involved the Outreach Ministry and the Leadership Committee (Nominating Committee) to undertake the same self-analysis

and sharing. Members of the Leadership Committee met with the Bylaws Team on Saturday, March 14, to ask questions and to share ideas and understanding, in preparation for drafting their Charter and responses to the five descriptive categories listed earlier in bold italics.

In time, we will ask each individual office holder, committee or ministry to go through the same process and

to share their results to guide the Bylaws Committee in preparing proposed bylaws that the Church Board and the membership will consider adopting.

Alone we can  
do so little;  
together we can  
do so much.

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.