

# BYLAWS BITS

## SEPTEMBER 2016

*Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

— 1 Peter 4:8-10 (NIV)

The Hospitality Ministry is at the center of the important activity described in 1

Peter 4. This article is your opportunity to become better informed about hospitality at First Church. You are encouraged to share your thoughts about the language proposed for inclusion in the revised bylaws, which will be presented at a congregational meeting for ultimate approval. The draft bylaw provisions relating to the Hospitality Ministry are as follows:

**PURPOSE:** To help connect the members and guests of First Church with one another, strengthen the church family, and help each individual to feel valued within the community.

**ROLES AND DUTIES:** To further its purpose, and not in limitation of its actions, the Hospitality Ministry shall have the following roles and duties:



1. Develop and maintain a charter to define the responsibilities of its members to provide individuals and families with a sense of value within the First Church community.
2. Embrace the First Church vision and mission statements and encourage others to live them out.
3. Lead and serve First Church by providing hospitality to members and visitors before and after services.

4. Coordinate with the Pastoral Staff in planning events to connect members of the community with one another.
5. Encourage participation in smaller groups to develop spiritual growth and build community.
6. Encourage new membership, through connection, to feel valued and involved in the activities of First Church.

**AUTHORITY:** The Hospitality Ministry shall have the authority to create and disband sub-committees, as it deems necessary to carry out its purpose, roles and duties.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** The Hospitality Ministry reports to the Executive Board. The Hospitality Ministry Chairperson is a member of the Church Council.

**MEMBERSHIP:** The Hospitality Ministry shall be formed by a Chairperson, who is a First Church member appointed by the Executive Board, and as many other members and non-members as may be necessary from time to time to achieve its purpose and to accomplish its roles and duties. The Chairperson shall serve until resignation or replacement.

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 available at [firstchurch.org/bylaws](http://firstchurch.org/bylaws) and at the Church Office. For more about the committee, and for all of its publications, please visit [firstchurch.org/BylawsCommittee](http://firstchurch.org/BylawsCommittee).