

Dear Friends,

You know we're not a big Fellowship, right? In truth we are considered a small congregation, but we don't feel small to me. On a Sunday morning our sanctuary is full. We often have more than 80 people on site and fifteen more online. Every week we gather as a community which speaks out loud of our love for the world, our longing for justice, and our commitment to the dignity of all people. We gather and we sing; we share our joys and our pain. Our building suits us, harboring our gatherings large and small with a pleasing aesthetic. This is accompanied by a welcoming atmosphere that feels special with plenty of bathrooms, a great kitchen, and small meeting spaces - all heated, all accessible. When children join us, we celebrate their living. We lovingly nurture their whole selves as they grow. When one among us dies, we gather to mourn and celebrate their life. We do all these things with the resources and the talent we each bring. Some sing, some speak, some cook, some do the accounting and others manage the endowment. Some care for our young while others serve in leadership. It's easy to take this for granted. And most of the time, it's OK to take it for granted, so that we can go about the work of fulfilling our mission to cultivate more love in the world and nurture more love for the world.

Once a year though, we are wise to appreciate what we have and consider how to keep it alive. When we support this Fellowship, we are joining the people who came before us, those who only dreamed of who we have become. Our "small" congregation is not so small at all. But the future is not a given. There is no account from which we can borrow to make sure all that we have now, building and staffing, will remain possible in the coming years.

We are the provisional caretakers of this community. This is what stewardship is truly about, picking up resources we have, adding to them, and using them wisely in the moment so that they may be moved into the future to be used for good. True stewardship requires that all of us serve as provisional caretakers.

It's something more than that too. Investment in what we care about is an investment in ourselves. What we give generously to, what we care about, what we invest our own hearts and souls in, offers us belonging and purpose. We are here for ourselves and each other. We are mutual provisional caretakers of the earth, our community, and of our Fellowship. How is it you caretaker those things you value? I hope you'll consider the ways that you can serve as a caretaker of this most precious and rather rare community. Serving as a volunteer, participating in the ways that you can, supporting one another, and with financial support that makes all this possible now and into the future.

In Faith and Love,
Rev. Linda