

Dear FBC Rome Family,

As we begin the month of June, I hope that you are well and are feeling as connected as possible. On behalf of our deacons and ministers, I wanted to give another update to where we are in the life of our church in the midst of the ongoing pandemic

First of all, we want to express our gratitude for the ways that each of you continue to support the ministries of our church. Your generosity enables us to undergird the ministries of our partners and to continue to find new ways to be the presence of Christ to each other and to this world. Thank you so much for your faithfulness. Our staff and ministers continue to do good work remotely and are adapting to changing circumstances. We are still trying new things in worship and have been glad to see such good commitment to small group bible studies, even though many of us have Zoom fatigue! As we have said all along, the church never stopped being the church—we just left the building.

We had our first church conference via Zoom at the end of May. In that conference we voted in some new members who had joined and remembered those we had lost in the last 5 months. We heard a good finance report, and it was shared that the finance committee voted to allocate up to \$50,000 of our surplus that we have right now to some needs that the missions committee was seeing in our community, and they will soon bring some stories of how your generosity has transformed some lives and ministries in our community. Committees are getting back to meeting after some disruption, and we are pushing forward with our next year's budget planning and leadership cultivation.

Our task force also met last month and will meet again next week to talk more about what our plan should look like as we work toward resuming in person meetings. Some churches have already resumed and some will be resuming in the weeks ahead and some don't have a plan yet. We are working on it. We will be sending out a survey to the entire church to ask some input from you, so please respond in a timely manner! In the mean-time we are also having conversations with health professionals and other clergy leadership from like-minded and similar size congregations. There are a lot of challenges to navigate as we figure this out, but we feel confident that we have the wisdom we need around us. Continue to pray for this group as they put together recommendations for our ministers and deacons. We covet your prayers.

Most importantly, continue to pray for how God might use you in the days and months ahead to serve God's Kingdom. There has never been a more important time to be the church, and I am grateful for each of you and for the ways all of our gifts fit together at FBC Rome.

Grace and Peace,

Matt