

**CORONA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
CORPORATE MEETING  
PASTOR'S REPORT**

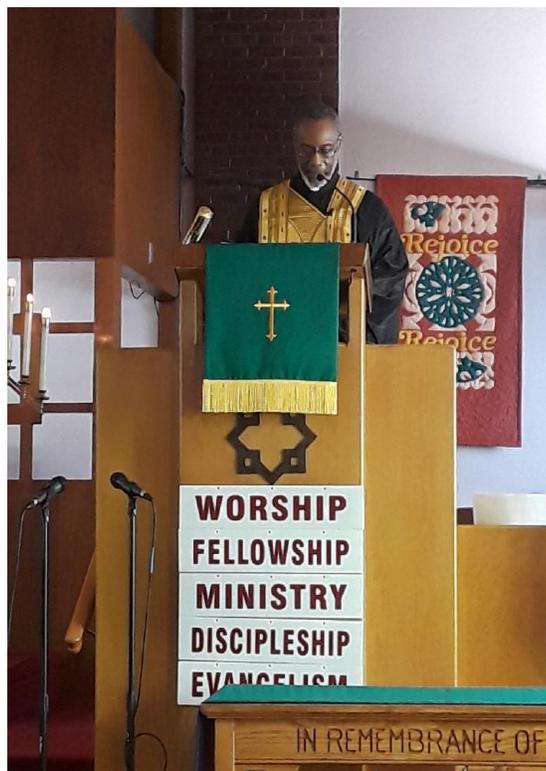
**April 17, 2021**

*...that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.... Col. 10*

**The Wind Blows Strong**

**Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go *back* by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea into dry *land*, and the waters were divided.**

***The Wind Blows Strong for God is present among us.*** Sisters and Brothers, the Holy Spirit is upon us blowing the breath of God upon God's church and leading us forward together on the journey. One of the results of the COVID-19 pandemic has been to push churches into new ways of doing things and has forced churches to be quite intentional about how they do worship and ministry in the pandemic and post-pandemic age. Corona UCC is in that time; our future is our present; the Wind blows strong. We must ride the wave of the Holy Ghost wind to new opportunities of worship, fellowship, ministry, discipleship and evangelism.



Those five words define how we see ourselves as a church serving God in our community. I call on us to renew and recommit ourselves to that five-fold ministry and let the power behind those words energize our walk forward together into the next chapter of our life as God's church. As your Pastor, the servant of the servants of God, I will plan programs, workshops, and activities designed to take us through those five areas so that the Spirit may help each of us grow and reach out with the light within us to each other and to those beyond the four walls of the church.

2  
Corona Congregational Church, UCC  
Corporate Meeting  
Pastor's Report  
4-17-21

In worship, as we consider when we will return to in-person worship, we will spiritually invest in on-line worship and pray the Holy Spirit to lead us forward together in reaching new hearers of the gospel.

Fellowship will continue to be a bedrock of our life together and I encourage all boards, committees, ministries and groups to be quite intentional in how you use your time together to enhance spiritual growth and service in ministry. I salute the Prayer Ministry and the Women's Fellowship who have given us examples of how that can be done. Further, I thank the Missionary Society which has continued to work to help people in need during this time of pandemic restrictions. I acknowledge the spiritual and prayerful leadership of the Deacons and the work of the Trustees, financial officers and our church staff.

One of the calls coming out of last Fall's *Vision Forward Bible Study* is the need to have increased avenues for us to grow as disciples of our Lord ("in-reach"). I will be doing some workshops, particularly our summertime Church Retreat, for that purpose and I invite all to share any subjects or concerns you would like to see us address, both issues for individual growth and growth together as a household of God.

Evangelism, the oft-dreaded "E-word" (Out-reach") is the soul of what Christians should be doing. It is essential to our growth individually and to our collective health as a people of God. And there is good news about the evangelism of the Good News: it need not be difficult, stressful or embarrassing. There will be workshops to help us learn and appreciate that.

Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship and Evangelism, along with missions, are the core of what we call Ministry. The most important part of my role as Pastor is to help each of you find your lane(s) for exercising your gifts of the Holy Spirit in doing the work of ministry as part of Corona UCC. That's an exciting part of the work ahead and I look forward to the challenge of working with and walking with you all as we go *Forward Together*. As we consider when and how we will return to in-person worship, let us catch the wind the Holy Spirit is blowing through the Body of Christ in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Let us ride that divine wind to higher heights for the glory of God and of Jesus, our Risen Lord and Savior.

***The Wind Blows Strong for God is present among us. Hallelujah!***

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Reginald Brantley, Pastor