Summary of Changes to By Laws - January 2020

For the Annual meeting, we will be asking the congregation to approve changes to the SOH By Laws. The By Laws have not been revised in over 15 years and during that time many processes have changed at SOH that are NOT reflected in the By Laws. The Council set a goal to revise them in 2020. The Personnel Committee reviewed the existing By Laws and modified them as applicable.   These reflect changes that ONLY UPDATE OUR BYLAWS TO CURRENT PRACTICES. One exception is the creation of a new membership category called associate members for inclusion of people who visit seasonally and are members of another church. Other significant changes include:

- Eliminate wording that included an all church meeting in May. (We used to meet 2 times a year and now only have met once a year in Jan/Feb since 2015.)
- Edited to create more current definition of Council positions and terms:
  - Council terms were limited to two terms of two years each. This limit was extended to include additional service if agreed to by all parties.
  - Defined Member at Large and membership positions.
  - Clarification of quorum and breaking of ties in voting situations.
  - Diaconate responsibilities modified to capture current responsibilities.
- Creation of a new membership category called associate member for seasonal congregants.   They will have full voting rights.
- A Church Historian is not a required position but is voluntary.
- To update terminology, the "secretary" nomenclature was changed to "clerk".
- The Church program year was modified to begin in July as opposed to June to be in line with current practice.
- Nomenclature changes from "chairperson" to "Leader" for the council positions.
- Adding recommendation for establishing an Ad Hoc committee for reviewing yearly financial documents

In addition, there were numerous clarification changes that clarified the Bylaws without changing in intent. We hope that you will approve these By Laws as modified.

Respectfully submitted,

Personnel Committee