

January 2019

To my cherished Westwood members and friends,

What an exciting and historic year we are having! Instead of fussing and worrying (or dozing) through changes in our culture that have made traditional church attendance decline, we are taking action. We know we need to evolve but the question is how? And what would that look like? And what would that mean for us? And what steps would we need to take? And how could we do that, so we don't lose the important essence of Westwood as well as our friendships and comfortable sense of home?



So, we are in the middle of a thoughtful and dynamic process to examine these questions through several planned conversations and discussions over the year and by offering a social enterprise workshop with Sean Loney February 1-3, 2019. We can feel proud of ourselves for doing this – it would be much easier to just sit back and let things ride along. But that is a risky course when we know that everything around us is changing.

Our stewardship theme, “Toward a Thriving Future”, perfectly embodies our goal of being a healthy, growing, inclusive and sustainable Westwood community. A community that will be remarkably relevant and vital for ourselves as well as for the broader community. Decades from today people will look back at this period and say, “Wow, they were really brave and insightful. They made big decisions to ensure Westwood remained relevant. And look how Westwood is thriving now!”

I hope you will continue to take an active part in this process through the meetings and workshops and allow your voice to be heard as we explore and expand our understanding of our options as we work towards future plans. And I urge you to continue to be generous in your financial pledge to Westwood. We already provide an important “social good” to many people which we can sometimes overlook. We need to maintain this and grow our capacity and impact. We can do much more and I think we will.

With affection and love,

Lorian Kennedy
President, your Board of Trustees