

*"We won't always know whose lives we touched and made better for our having cared, because actions can sometimes have unforeseen ramifications. What's important is that you do care and you act." --Charlotte Lunsford*

## **Moderator's Report 2024**

Looking back over this past year, I am filled with love and gratitude that Sanctuary continues to spread its mission and ministries in a unique and spirit filled way under Reverend Wendy's creative and visionary ministry. Through arts and inspiration, outreach and service, our traditional worship services, and civic engagement for justice, our congregation continues to be dedicated to spreading God's love in some simply fabulous ways!.

Last year Sanctuary completed a thoughtful and thorough [discernment process](#) from which we [developed a recommendation](#) to stay the course in our ministry while exploring the viability of a dynamic merger with Hillside Community Church. With open hearts and minds, our goal then [and now] was to discover the best way to honor our call to be the unique church we have envisioned while providing a path to long term sustainability.

Our exploration into a dynamic merger for the last several months has taken the form of a moderator facilitated series of meetings in conversation with Hillside. We are a few gatherings into the process, which has so far included getting to know each other a bit better, sharing our unique history, and stating our purpose, values, and expressions of faith. There have been a range of thoughts and emotions cascading from this shared journey... but in all of it, the Sanctuary congregation participating in the exploration have remained open to change and curious about the possibilities. As Don, the moderator has said, "We are looking for the purple [the "us"], not red [Sanctuary] or blue [Hillside]."

As we look to the year ahead, we have decided to stay the course on our fundamental mission while accomplishing some significant cost savings. Saying goodbye to our storefront will force us to discover new spaces, people and opportunities to do what we do best. We will continue to explore the merger and trust that the way forward will make itself known as we together make a decision about joining churches. You can read more about the details of our [2024 Visioning here](#).

I want to close this message with heartfelt thanks to you all. Thank you for your trust in me as your moderator, thank you for your participation and volunteering this past year, and most of all, thank you for your love.

All the best,  
Christy Miller, Moderator