

# ❖ Faith Builder ❖

Volume 21 Issues 3

“A Church with a Heart for People”

March 2021

## Message to the Congregation

### FCC Tentative Reopening Plan

Dear Faith Family,

This month I would like to share with you the consistory’s tentative, church-reopening plan. Please understand we hold these plans lightly and will continue to make decisions based on the latest statistics, government mandates, and spirit-led wisdom. Our highest priorities are your spiritual and physical well-being.

#### Step 1—March 14

Move Saturday sermon recordings to Sundays @ 9:30 a.m., exactly as is: no singing, max 25 people, no food/fellowship time, safety procedures are required.

#### 1b—Aim for Easter Sunday

Introduce 1-2 worship songs as solos by John and Tanya (no congregational singing).

#### Step 2—When county moves into Phase 3

Increase max capacity to 50 people (or whatever govt standards are, based upon a 100 person capacity of the room). Reintroduce limited, congregational singing. Safety procedures still required by all.

#### Step 3—When county moves to Phase 4

No max cap of people. No max cap of songs. Safety procedures still required by all.

#### Step 4—When county moves out of phases altogether

No more required safety restrictions.  
Reintroduce fellowship/food time.

\*Children and Youth in-person programs will remain closed for now, possibly re-opening after the summer.

\*\*Steps 1-3 will continue to feature online services (livestreamed and recorded).

\*\*\*In all of this we will adjust to and follow government standards and rules.



### Giving Options

We now have online giving! Please see our webpage ([www.fathedmonds.org](http://www.fathedmonds.org)) or download the Tithe.ly app to be able to make payments through credit card. Or, you can still send in checks through the mail. Thank you for your faithfulness during this difficult season!



### Thank You for Your Financial Support

February 2021

Income:	\$ 12,724
Expenses:	\$ 13,963
Budgeted:	\$ 15,785

#### YTD– Totals

Income:	\$ 25,295
Expenses:	\$ 27,688
Budgeted:	\$ 32,516

# ❖ Faith Builder ❖

Volume 21 Issues 3

*“A Church with a Heart for People”*

March 2021

## Vision 2020 Update

The following is an abridged version of the most recent communication from RCA leadership:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This is a difficult time for the RCA. Our denomination had hoped that a decades-long debate centering on human sexuality and polity would find resolution when we met for General Synod in 2020. Our plans collided with COVID-19 and its host of complexities around gatherings. In the face of much uncertainty, General Synod 2020 was postponed to 2021.

Now in 2021, we are again faced with the question of when and how to hold General Synod. Leaders in the RCA have been prayerfully seeking to discern what is best for the body, given these two primary tensions—the desire for timely and orderly resolution, and the desire to ensure the safety and health of General Synod participants. Our options are significantly influenced by the laws of the state of New York where the General Synod is incorporated, and our own Book of Church Order. Our Commission on Church Order has been working earnestly to provide guidance with regard to our polity. We have listened to the many and varying voices, and, Based on all the input, we have decided to plan to hold an in-person stated session of the General Synod in October 2021.

In order to meet bylaw requirements, the elected General Synod officers and one or two other voting delegates will convene in Pella, Iowa, in June, for a pro forma meeting where they will declare that a quorum is not present, then adjourn the meeting to a specific later date in October.

We are trusting that the wider RCA recognizes that we want to meet at the earliest time possible, while doing so in a safe and responsible manner. Along with many of you, we feel the anxiety of living in an ongoing state of irresolution regarding the future of our denomination. But as the body of Christ, we value each other’s health and safety, and we trust in God to carry us through this season of circumstances beyond our control.

For more information please visit the following link:  
[www.rca.org/general-synods-june-meeting-delayed](http://www.rca.org/general-synods-june-meeting-delayed)

Sincerely,

EJ de Waard, president of General Synod

Phil Assink, vice president of General Synod

Eddy Alemán, RCA general secretary