

Dear Friends,

We are in the fullness of the election season with adds, debates, news, and signs everywhere. Though I can't and shouldn't support any candidate inside our church community or even political party, it's hard to share our values without being automatically seen as doing so. There used to be a lot of common ground between with parties and diversity of thought and platforms within the two political parties. Now, in just about any issue, one party is for it and the other is against it, sometimes just because the other side is the opposite.

With that in mind, I encourage anyone who is of voting age and eligible to vote, no matter who you are voting for, vote. Voting is the bedrock of our country and government and is all citizens' responsibility.

AND, in our church and denomination, though we have no formal creeds or doctrines, we do have values, ideas, and leanings when it comes to the issues that face our country, our world, humans, and all life upon this planet.

First of all, we proclaim that we are to love our neighbor, no matter who they are, what they look like, worship, or citizenship, we are to care for all. Although, especially the poor, the stranger, and the lowly.

Second, we lift up the world as the creation of God, created for abundance of all life and blessed for its goodness. We are to care for our planet and all life that lives upon it.

Third, we are a church that tries to follow the Just Peace path. We try to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly. There are many people and groups in our country who have been left out and left behind from the promise that "All people(men) are created equal" and to work towards "liberty and justice for all." Some of the injustices are still written into our laws and court rulings, some are still practiced by corporations and community groups, and some are attitudes and ignorance of not knowing any better. We need our government representatives to change the laws, hold accountable those who don't, and help lead us into a better future for all.

It is probably true that some who don't share our values will be elected, and some who do will be meek in working towards them. Whoever is elected, we still can contact them and share our views and values. For progress is long and hard fought for.

Peace
Pastor Enno