

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

601 Main Street Bennington, VT 05201

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Epiphany

January 6, 2012

Dear congregants:

On January 22, 2012, at 10:45 AM in Colgate Hall, we will gather for the 183rd annual meeting of the congregation. As part of this annual meeting, we will consider a 2012 budget and slate of officers and affirm the year just completed. In good Baptist fashion, we will hold a potluck afterwards!

As part of this year's annual meeting, we will consider **revisions to the church bylaws**, a long identified need now moving toward completion! The present bylaws were written substantially in the late 1950s and reflect First Baptist's then numbers and needs as well as our understanding of what First Baptist understood its mission to be at the time.

The proposed bylaws (draft dated 12/11/2011) come to you after the Cabinet reviewed the present bylaws and assessed the current needs of First Baptist as a smaller membership yet actively missional congregation. Due consideration is given also to the prevailing State of Vermont and federal laws regarding non-profit corporations. With the proposed bylaws, the Cabinet believes these changes will strengthen and streamline our governance. *(NOTE: The proposed bylaws are being reviewed by outside legal counsel. Any changes recommended will be announced as we receive the counsel's report. Accordingly, the proposed bylaws will be reissued to reflect any legal advisements received.)*

As noted above, the bylaws were compared to the "model bylaws" template provided by the Vermont Secretary of State (available for review online via: www.sec.state.vt.us/corps/dobiz/npo/sample_bylaws.htm.) If you do not have internet access or you would like a print copy of the Secretary of State's model bylaws template, please contact the church office.

The Cabinet recommended these proposed bylaws be considered by the congregation at the January 22, 2012, annual meeting. As per our present bylaws (cf. Article XV. AMENDMENTS), a second vote will be held thirty (30) days after the first vote to complete the process of approving new bylaws. The Cabinet will determine a second meeting date to complete the bylaw revision process after an affirmative "first" vote has been given.

In anticipation of this meeting, please review the "present" and "proposed" bylaws available via Sunday morning worship, the church office (hours: weekdays 9 AM to 3 PM), or downloadable as PDF files via: <http://www.fcbennington.org/bylaw-documents>.

If you have comments or questions about the proposed bylaws, please contact Wayne Kachmar, Moderator, or the church office.

Grace and Peace,

The Rev. Jerrod H. Huguenot, on behalf of the Moderator and Cabinet