



United Proclamation of the Gospel
Proudly serving God's children gathered at:
Light of Christ Lutheran Church
St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church

October 30, 2019

Cover Letter for "Articles of Agreement"

Greetings and peace to you all!

Led by the movement of the Holy Spirit, the people of the United Proclamation of the Gospel in Bethlehem have been united in our desire to "Proclaim God's love, one heart at a time" in deep and profound ways. The sharing of our leadership, resources of varied gifts and talents across our two communities of faith, and finances has enabled us to powerfully come together to express and share our common faith.

Now, the leadership of the United Proclamation of the Gospel endorses the formalization of the UPG and desires to enter into a Parish Arrangement which will be recognized not only by the membership of our community of faith, but also by our synod and the ELCA. This action is being completed in accordance with our constitutions which enable each of our participating congregations to enter into a parish agreement with a 2/3 majority vote of our voting members.

If a "No" vote is cast in this process, the voter is sharing her/his desire to exit the current arrangement which has been operating for the previous 26 months. Should more than 1/3 of our voting members vote "No", the leadership will begin to make plans to separate our two communities of faith. This separation would include our pastoral leadership, and the "combined" staff of the UPG.

If a "Yes" vote is cast in this process, the voter is sharing her/his desire to continue in our current arrangement with an understanding that the leadership of the UPG will be guided by the visioning report (dated Feb. 12, 2019). This report expressed a desire, at some point in the future, to create a single congregation. A "Yes" vote does not necessarily say that you are prepared now to be a single congregation (a special congregational meeting would need to be convened for such).

Due to importance of this vote, a "Town Hall" meeting will be held on each of the UPG campuses following worship on Saturday November 16 and Sunday November 17, to attempt to answer any questions you might have about the formalization of the UPG.

Please prayerfully consider how God is moving among us and what God may be calling us to be and to do as we enter this time of intentional discernment.

May God's peace be with us all!

Rev. Jerry Kulp

Nancy Kostas

Ted Birchmeier