
EXTENDING THE TABLE



Dear Friend,

I am so grateful to know you and to serve as your pastor. I hope this letter finds you well and willing to read on. Within it, you will find an introduction to the Kingstowne Communion's *Extending the Table* stewardship campaign, followed by a note of gratitude, and an invitation to give in 2022.

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Five years ago, when we first started this beautiful church, we did so courageously, creatively, collaboratively (and perhaps even a bit naively) rooted in our initial, simple, tag-lining invitation: ***Welcome to the Table***. And in the beginning, these words were just that: an invitation. Not an identity – not even a way of being – but just an invitation.

We knew God was setting the Table at Kingstowne and offering a life of communion with Jesus that our community perhaps had not encountered or savored before; but it was still up to us, new and untested, to prove who we were.

Would we, in fact, live into our invitation – *Welcome to the Table* – and be the welcoming Jesus-community we claimed to offer?

Now, five years later, I know the answer to that identity-defining question is yes. Over and over again, you have proven that this is who you are – *courageously, creatively, and collaboratively welcoming*. But not only that. You have shown that neither the Table nor the invitation were ever meant to be static.

You have insisted, not just on welcoming, but on *extending the Table*, dynamically lengthening it until anyone anywhere can pull up a seat and meet God.

**That's who Kingstowne is. That's what Kingstowne does best.
Extending the Table to all and through all until Kingdom comes.**

And the last two years have certainly put this to the test. While churches worldwide have experienced significant decline, many to the point of no return, you have continued to hear God's call, offer the invitation, and gather at the Table wherever God may be – in-person, online, in common tables, at the winery, nursery, pub, in cars, parking lots, park shelters, living rooms, under the trees, around firepits, and, most recently, at Hayfield Secondary School.

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So, thank you! Thank you for remaining connected and committed to this work of *extending the Table* at the Kingstowne Communion.

It is because of your belief in and commitment to the communing presence and welcoming embrace of Jesus Christ in and through the ministry of this church that the Kingstowne Communion didn't just survive a pandemic but grew to reach financial sustainability and became an independent United Methodist church in the midst of it. That, and so much more, is worthy of God-sized celebration!

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As our church moves into this new season of regathering at Hayfield Secondary School, as children begin to be vaccinated, and as comfort and freedom in gathering increases, I invite you to pray through these questions:

- *How is God calling you next to **extend the Table** through your financial support and service within the Kingstowne Communion?*
- *How is God calling our church next to **extend the Table** to our community?*
- *What must we together be willing to give for this to be possible?*

If increasing our regularity and reliability of Sunday worship and children's discipleship at Hayfield Secondary School is our next step, our church will have to increase our budget from \$160,000 in 2021 to at least \$170,000 in 2022, as well as significantly increase our number of Sunday volunteers, to make this happen. Reaching our enclosed 2022 stewardship goals would allow us to still be the *courageous, creative, and collaborative* church we've always been, taking worship into new places and spaces at least ten Sundays a year and other times of the week, while also still providing a reliable public presence during pivotal seasons of the year.

For this reason, I ask that you would consider increasing both your financial and service commitments to the Kingstowne Communion in 2022 so that, each of us assuming our roles and responsibility in Kingstowne's care, can continue **extending the Table** in our community.

I also invite you to join us on **Sunday, November 14th** for Kingstowne's first annual Charge Conference immediately following worship, where you can ask your questions and learn more about where God is leading and what is ahead in this season of our church.

Grace & Peace,



Michelle Matthews
Pastor

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Enclosed:

- 2021 and 2022 Infographic
- 2022 Giving and Serving Commitment Cards
- An Invitation to Upcoming Important Events
- Instructions on how to set up online giving and Amazon Smile donations