



10.29.15

Dear Friends,

By now, many of you have seen the **BE THE CHURCH** banner on the walls of Fellowship Hall and the Prayer Garden. Almost every week a visitor attends worship that noticed the banner and was inspired to investigate Rincon because of it. The

**BE THE CHURCH** banner on our walls not only envisions the radical discipleship to which God calls us, it describes the history, present moment, and forward movement of our church here at Rincon.

*Protect the environment.*

At Rincon's 50th anniversary in 2005, members gathered to compile a history of Rincon, which documents our roots as a congregation

committed to faith practices of vigorous and inspiring worship, active and engaged mission, and open-minded and open-hearted faith development for all ages. Our church has remained faithful to this early vision throughout our sixty years as we embraced the process of becoming a Just Peace and Open and Affirming

*Care for the poor.*

*Forgive often.*

Congregation. We have grown in our understanding and practice of what it means to extend extravagant welcome to all of God's people and today we are known as a church where all are welcome, "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey." Our new intergenerational "Children's Gathering Place" extends extravagant welcome to children as it

incorporates our commitment to safe space where all God's children are welcome and safe, and where they can play and learn in a creative, collaborative, and natural environment.

In the past three years, we also have deepened our mission commitment to be a critical presence where there is critical need by providing grants to and providing space for local non-profit partners in ministry whose work extends Jesus' vision of the kingdom of God:

*Fight for the powerless.*

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

Our community partners extend Rincon's commitment to Jesus' call to serve the poorest, most marginalized, and oppressed including migrants and refugees, adults and teens who are homeless, at-risk youth, glbtq youth and adults, people with serious

*Share earthly and spiritual resources.*

Rev. Delle McCormick, Senior Minister

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mental illnesses, adults and youth in recovery from addiction, and local musicians and choirs. Our campus is “sanctuary” for so many beyond the physical boundaries of the church.

Embrace diversity.

We are growing in our determined response to meet critical need with critical presence. Every week new friends find their way to our church because of Rincon’s commitment to

**BE THE CHURCH.** We don’t just say the words, we live them! This past weekend’s three-day “Sacred Conversations on Race” event, including “Songs of Struggle and Freedom” concert with Lisa Otey and Dianne Van Duerzen and the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Harvey’s “Exploring Whiteness” conference and “Who Are Your People?” sermon drew approximately 250 people to our campus, at least fifty of whom were visitors.

Below you will find a chart that describes the five areas of mission and ministry that you support with human and financial resources. The work of our church is your work. Only together can we grow this Good News in and through and beyond our walls and **BE THE CHURCH** God calls us to be.

Love God.

We have a month before Stewardship Sunday on November 29<sup>th</sup>. In the next weeks, you will learn more about how your support has helped so many through four short visual reflections on what the UCC and our church mean to members, friends, and Rincon ministry partners. Please reflect on what the vision and mission of the UCC and our church mean to you and to the world. I invite you to prayerfully pledge if you haven’t, and increase your pledge if you have, as we live into a demanding and exciting year of ministry together.

In Faith,



Pastor Delle

Enjoy this life.