

Numbers 27 tells us that in the last days of the Israelite wandering, Moses, preparing to die, spoke to the LORD: “Let the Lord, the God of all living things, appoint someone over the community who will go out before them, someone who will lead them out and bring them back, so that the Lord’s community won’t be like a sheep without a shepherd.” (Numbers 27:16-17)

Of course, this is not the only instance in which the people of God looked for leadership. Sometimes these leaders were those who rose through ranks, other times God spoke through priests and prophets to anoint them for specific purposes. Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Barak, Saul, David, Solomon. John the Baptist, Jesus, Peter, Paul. All of these were called to leadership as an expression of the spiritual gifts they had developed. Some were generals and warriors. Others were thoughtful judges and kings. Still others were teachers, healers, and priests. And all were necessary to lead the People of God.

Every year at Centennial, July 1 marks the beginning of the new program year. This means that we have nominated and affirmed new leadership at all levels for the life of the People of God. Our leaders are made up of folks with diverse gifts and perspectives, all seeking to serve God and this congregation with their whole selves. They are, like us all, exceedingly human, prone to mistakes and missteps. There will be discussions and positions and not everyone will be happy with every outcome. But having affirmed them through a congregational vote, they deserve our support and encouragement. Please take the opportunity to thank our leaders for their hard work and dedicated service.

Blessings,

Pastor Heather