

## Blog Post ~ “The Work Continues”

I am writing this post about a week after the Presidential election. There have been a lot of emotions shared and there continues to be a lot of emotion on all sides. As I mentioned in my sermon this past Sunday, some of you are relieved with the results while others are scared and angry. As a purple church in a purple community, our political viewpoints are not uniform, and that means this is who we currently are as the body of Christ: some relieved, some angry, and some somewhere in between.

In fact, one of the reasons why I love the United Church of Christ—and our church in particular—is that we *do not* see eye to eye. I love the fact that we can disagree about things and still be in community with one another. In this way I believe our diversity makes us stronger.

But there is one thing which I believe we do need to see eye to eye on—and that I am confident we do—and that is that the work of the church, the work of what it means to be the church, must continue.

Now I know that many of you have been around the church much longer than I have—occupying pews in this building, even, for well over 50 years. You’ve seen lots of elections, lots of changes in society, lots of things happening in the world that you agreed with and things that you didn’t. And yet through it all you remained faithful to the call to be the church—the very call that is flapping in the breeze, on this windy day, on the side of our church, which says:

- Protect the environment.
- Care for the poor.
- Embrace diversity.
- Reject racism.
- Forgive often.
- Love God.
- Fight for the powerless.
- Share earthly and spiritual resources.
- Enjoy this life.

My friends, no matter how you are feeling as you read this, my hope and prayer is that we will all recommit ourselves to being the church in this way: for those inside our walls, for those across the community of Tolland, and for those beyond.

It is, after all, who we have been for 300+ years. It is who we say we are now working to be locally engaged, broadly inclusive, and deeply relevant. And it is who we will need to be until we succeed in making earth look a little more like heaven.

And I think we can all agree that that is a world well worth working for, indeed.