

# Rules of Engagement

- Stay muted unless you have something to add
- Use the “chat” feature to get attention
- “Judgment Free Zone”
- This conversation will set aside technical questions of “how to” (sound systems, platforms, copyrights, etc.) except when they present theological components – please join Pr. Fisher’s weekly Thursday gatherings for those questions!
- Presentation Outline
  - Underlying theological issues;
  - fears lurking underneath the conversation;
  - faith convictions
  - A helpful conversation structure
  - Your experience, wisdom, concerns, ideas

# Underlying Issues/Tensions

- Holy Communion - What? When? Who? Where? How?
  - Means
  - What constitutes “assembly”?
  - Word
  - *“lex orandi; lex credendi”*
  - How is Jesus present? (for how long, where, etc.)
- Authority/Office:
  - Ecclesiastical (Churchwide/Synod)
  - Congregational (Pastor/local community)
- Pastoral Sensitivity in Anxious Times
- Inclusiveness of Assembly
- A short term situation has evolved into a long-term reality

# Fears

- Losing congregational “engagement” (therefore losing #s and \$)
- Folks will get used to “easy” assembly at home in slippers and we will never get them back to in-person worship
- Sacrament loses meaning
- Laity can’t be trusted
- Folks will be left out (accessibility, economics, etc.)
- Church or pastoral authority is lost or undermined
- Who is allowed at the online table? (children, unbaptized, etc.)
- Constitution loses meaning (commune 1x year, give \$1, attend wp)
- Recordings of worship do not carry “real presence” or embodied proclamation
- What else?

# Faith – God is already here!

- Christ's presence and invitation
- God's expansive imagination
- Worship practices embodying God's presence have shifted
  - Wilderness
  - Temple
  - Destruction of Temple/Exile
  - Followers of Jesus
  - First church (homes) into church of Paul's letters
- Worship has never been perfect, we will never have a perfect answer
- Christ's presence does not require a mediator
- In Christ Jesus, death always leads to new life, renewal and resurrection

# Three-Legged Stool (Bishop Craig Satterlee)

- Scripture
- Church history/Theology
- Pastoral Concerns

