

October 2019

Dear Members and Friends of CFAMC,

It is with gratitude, pleasure, and honor that I write to you today upon the 25th anniversary of the founding of our Fellowship. That we have arrived at this happy occasion speaks both to the grace of God and to the ongoing dedication and hard work of so many. CFAMC is a mission-driven organization that seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by encouraging the work and witness of Christians who compose art music. Over these 25 years, we have contemplated and probed what that mission looks like. We glorify the Lord individually in our hearts and with our music, yes, but we also seek to fulfill our mission through facilitating Christian fellowship among our members, a particular kind of *koinonia* that includes communication, sharing, intercessory prayer, mutual support and the encouragement of spiritual growth, all in a Christian context.

You can read all of that on our website. But the living out of this mission over a quarter-century has taught CFAMC something that Christians and Christian organizations nearly always find: There is work, there is sacrifice, there is humility, there is disappointment, there is celebration—and in the end we realize that there is faith, and faith alone. Our work is a testimony and an offering, but faithfulness with God, with one another, with our wider communities, all in the name of and for the sake of Christ, remains the essential element. We might even paraphrase an idea that has come up during the course of our 25 years: What Would Jesus Compose? Or, better yet, how would He live out His life as a composer?

After a score and five years, we are still here, trying to help one another do just that. It turns out that “congratulations” means to give thanks and show joy agreeably together. And so it also turns out that our Fellowship is all about congratulations, with Jesus Christ at the party. I rejoice that I am with you in spirit, but regret that I am not so in person. Enjoy this time of celebration together. Our music can be a proxy. Do what we’ve always done: Reminisce and look forward, listen and hear, love one another. This is eternity.

All blessings,

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