

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church

August 15, 2019

H. James Hopkins, *Pastor*
Allison J. Tanner, *Minister of Christian Formation*
Kay Baxter, *Business Manager*

Dear Tim and Congregation,

On behalf of your sisters and brothers, the members of Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church and Oakland First Baptist Church, I congratulate you as you celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the founding of Seattle First Baptist Church. In the face of great challenges and many changes, your church has born faithful witness to the good news of God's love for all people, to the promise that the way of Jesus offers hope and healing in an often broken world.

We share with you a commitment to the American Baptist tradition, membership in the Evergreen Baptist Association, the founding of the Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists, belonging to the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America-Bautistas por la Paz, support of the American Baptist Seminary of the West and a respect for a ministry that values diversity and seeks inclusivity. Over the years many members of LABC and OFBC have enjoyed the hospitality of SFBC and have benefitted from your large-hearted ministry.

To read your history is to understand the courage and resilience of your congregation. When a voice for justice was needed, you spoke up. When a stand against hate was needed, you stood up. You continue to embody the directive, which is our congregation's theme for the year ahead, to "Stand Strong and Hold On."

In a sermon titled *The Journey That Never Ends* the beloved visionary Rod Romney, who served as the pastor of both SFBC and LABC wrote, "I hold that to look backward does not mean that we must go backward or that we can't see where we are going. In fact, we may even have a better chance of living more fully in the present and facing the future with hope because we have thought our way out of the past."

On this glad occasion it is a joy to honor our shared histories and commit to a shared future by embracing anew the sacred journey, the journey that never ends.

With deep respect,


Jim Hopkins

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August 9, 2019

The Rev. Dr. Tim Phillips
Seattle First Baptist Church
1111 Harvard Avenue
Seattle WA 98122

Dear Pastor Phillips:

I write to offer my hearty congratulations on the momentous occasion of your congregation's 150th anniversary. I am sorry that out-of-state travel will not allow me to participate in the celebration.

Seattle First Baptist has been a beacon of hope and inclusion for our community. I have been pleased to take part in many events at your church, from the vigil for Matthew Shepard more than 20 years ago to the memorial service for Brook Stanford earlier this summer. You have also graciously hosted many of our 43rd district legislative town halls.

As a longtime member of your neighbor congregation, Central Lutheran, I have also been impressed by and grateful for your work and values, including the visionary support for Companis and your early and emphatic welcome of LGBTQ people.

I pray that your congregation will provide many more years of faithful service to our neighborhood and wish you well on that journey.

Best wishes,

Senator Jamie Pedersen