

## **Moderator's Report:**

Peace and Blessings to all as we enter a new year. 2020 was a year of tremendous unrest and pain for the world unlike we have ever seen in our lifetime. I give God thanks and praise for bringing us through and for the knowledge that with God all things are possible so I know if we lean on the Almighty we will have the strength to endure. At Ray of Hope we remained consistent and focused on the Word of God to bring peace and understanding to anyone with whom we engaged.

It brought us great sorrow to have to close our chapel for public worship due to Covid-19 protocols however I give thanks to the Holy Spirit for preparing us to be able to still hold all our worship and Bible Enrichment services due to our on line platform of Skype webcasting which we have been using for years. When other houses of worship had to close their doors for physical attendance as we did also, we were able to pivot quickly to our on line platform and not miss a beat.

I'm so proud of all the efforts we took to continue to be a light of Christ in the world and support our statement of purpose. Examples in 2020 were increased participation at Bible Enrichment, use of Facebook live to share our services with more people and record them for future viewing, participation in Black Lives Matter march, leading the World Communion virtual service with other Elmira Clergy members, partnering on a public service announcement to get out the vote, Hannukah and Kwanzaa participation.

We held an inquiries class in March 2020 and as a result we had Kaiden Rae Benedict attend and request membership upon completion. Kaiden became an official member in April 2020. I want to personally thank Kaiden and Br. Benedict for all that they did and are doing to ensure the chapel is set up and the computers and cameras are up and ready for every service. They have also donated many hours to repairs and upkeep of our building at 380 W. First Street. I am very grateful for your service and contributions, many of which are behind the scenes.

We maintained our financial health in 2020 as we manage to ensure all our operating expenses were taken care of however we were not able to make the capital improvements to the building that are much needed. We must figure out how to get these improvements completed in 2021 and I am asking for your help in finding the solution or pathway to get the job done. For the past few years we have budgeted for these repairs and did so again in the 2021 budget. Let's make this the year that we complete those repairs.

Again, I thank Lisa Frost for the job she does as treasurer balancing all the accounts and keeping us all informed of our financial situation. As a repeat from previous years, I know she would welcome any support with the treasurer responsibilities so please reach out to her and discuss how you can assist. Participation from all and getting others engaged will be critical focus areas in 2021 to strengthen the financial health of Ray of Hope.

I must repeat again this year, one area that we need your support is in attendance at our monthly Council meetings. We meet consistently each month throughout the year and it is a great opportunity to share ideas on what things are working well, what needs to change and what needs to be eliminated. Everyone is welcomed to attend the meetings and I encourage you to please come and share in this important part of ministry. We provide detailed monthly minutes for your review to keep you informed on what is happening at Ray of Hope so please review them and give us feedback. Thank you to all those that were able to attend Council meetings in 2020 and provide insights.

Br. Benedict has continued to provide pastoral leadership for the congregation and to help us all improve our Spiritual health. At the same time, he is spending a significant amount of time on the church website to make it a very comprehensible resource for the Saints to use and share with the world. Make it a point to visit the website weekly and share it with others. [www.rayofhopechurch.com](http://www.rayofhopechurch.com). If you have the skills to assist in this area, please reach out and let us know as we could use your assistance.

I thank absolutely everyone who gave of their time, talents and treasures this year to support this ministry.

All of us are made in the image of the invisible God , we are fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalms 139:14) We are God's masterpiece, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10) As such, all people have unique gifts and abilities that can be used for the glory of God and as your moderator, I am asking you to please join us in using those gifts here at Ray of Hope. Br. says all the time and I agree, this is the church of potential and possibilities.

It is still a very trying time in the world right now and I pray for healing, direction, grace and mercy. I invite all to continue to lean on the Holy Spirit for knowledge, guidance, and strength for how to best use your gifts in 2021 for the glory of God. Continue to seek revelations from God's Word, respond using Christ as a model and relationships that the Holy Spirit help us discern.

As your Moderator, I will continue to work diligently with you to understand God's plan for our congregation and how best to serve....

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Floyd, Moderator Ray of Hope Church of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Vice Moderator Report:**

Another year in which the Harvest did not produce an individual who felt God's calling to join the Council and take on the role of the Vice Moderator of the Council. We remain faithful to God's word that all things happen for good to those that love the Lord and we will wait for God to send us the right person to share in this position of leadership.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Floyd, Moderator Ray of Hope Church of our Lord Jesus Christ

**Clerk Report:**

All matters of church correspondence was received and documented in the clerical records. One new member was added to the membership roster , Kaiden Rae Benedict in April 2020.

The official office of clerk remains open on the Council. Please consider volunteering to assist and support this position or any other officer roles of the Council in 2021 as you do not have to be a member of the Council to do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Floyd, Moderator Ray of Hope Church of our Lord Jesus Christ