



Dear Friends,

On Sunday August 13th after the close of worship, a meeting was held to consider nominations for our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee the congregation elected is: Patti Ford, Pete Zahn, Gayle Osiborski, Rodney Bookhardt, Barbara Wagner, Mary Ann Sumner, and Casey Timbs. They will be trained on August 24th.

During our Ireland Pilgrimage, people naturally asked when our next spiritual journey might be. I used to travel every other year and let Cara take a group on the opposite year, so for 2018 (which could have been her year) I did not plan a pilgrimage, (just a Baltic Cruise with Mary Ann for our 40th wedding anniversary!) But I do have these trip possibilities:

2019- an 11 day "Journey Through the Bible." This was the popular EO trip that about 34 of you took with me in July of 2014. This will likely be my last Holy Land trip that I'll be offering, SO, I'm giving some date choices and I'll try to choose the date when the most interested people can go. I am proud to say that our group was the first one of the EOs groups to go in July and now they have added one to their calendar! Yes it is warmer, but the crowds are much lighter. On the other hand, a date during the rest of the year is cooler but the crowds can be quite big. Prices also can vary a bit. EO has not yet set dates for 2019, but based on their 2018 dates, and our calendar, we could consider:

January (estimated price from NY; Orlando slightly higher) \$2,898

February (estimated price from NY; Orlando slightly higher) \$2,998

July (estimated price from NY; Orlando slightly higher) \$3348 (summer air travel is costly)

Additionally, people on our trip were interested in the once every 10 years Oberammergau Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. EO is the largest provider of Passion Play tickets in the world. In 2010 when we went, also visited the following cities and sites in Germany and Austria: Munich, Innsbruck, the Meadow of the Wies, Salzburg, and more! 2020 departures start on May 25 and continue through Sept 28. It is a 9 day trip with pricing, minus discounts, listed as \$3698. We would aim to have our reservations in by this October at the latest to get the best discount. So again, if you are interested in taking this journey with me, please email me or hand me a note *in writing* with the month that interests you most. I will see if we can come up with a consensus, and, if there are enough interested to plan our journey. The play is put on once every ten years for more than a century in thanks to God for sparing them during the time of the Black Plague. All the actors come only from the tiny town with all natural hair and make-up! Their devotion to their craft is moving.

I'll wait to hear from you!

Jeff Sumner