6 Reasons Why We Need the COVID-19 Vaccine in Our Congregation

1. **Improved health is rooted in our very creation.** We—all persons—are created and loved by God. Rather than fear science, we can wonder and celebrate it because God who created the world and created each of us is also the author of the marvels of science that give us vaccines. We receive them as a gift from our creator for our good.

2. **Healing ministry is at the core of the gospel.** Christians have always cared for body and spirit because Jesus cared for body and spirit. When we embody God's healing to others through touch or concern, we take part in God's healing activity and care for the whole person.

3. **The Bible encourages preventive measures.** A joyful heart is good medicine (Proverbs 17:22), and physical training has value alongside our spiritual lives (1 Timothy 4:8). We also read in 1 Timothy 5:23 the advice that Timothy should take a little wine along with his water intake to help settle his stomach and his chronic ailments. Vaccines are a valuable preventive measure available to us now.

4. **Healing is part of Christian tradition.** Church history teaches us that the church was influential in the history of health care because early Christian teachers valued the body, and they regarded the medical arts of the times as good gifts from God useful in healing the body when it became sick.

5. **Vaccines are one way we bring glory to God for our lives.** Our lives come from God, and we honor God when we choose paths to preserve our health and enjoy our life together. Vaccines preserve health and life not only for us as individuals but for us as a congregation together and the community around us.

6. **Vaccines will help bring us back together.** As more of us are vaccinated, we can more confidently return to what we long for—a congregation that gathers in worship, fellowship, and service. Health ministry, including through vaccines, announces the message of God's love that calls us to be the people of God together, to find our identity together.