**Time to Move and Shake again!**

Passing the Peace—Almost 2000 years of liturgical connection.

With the easing of Covid protocols, the Worship Commission has modified advice on avoiding personal contact during “Passing the Peace.” It’s OK, *as personal comfort dictates*, to move about the sanctuary to greet fellow worshipers, shake hands, fist bump, elbow bump or simply wave.

But why do we do it at all?!? Those of us “rich in decades” can remember that it wasn’t included in our earlier years. In fact, though, it’s been around in varying forms since the founding of the church!

“The Peace originated in the practice of the early Christians, who were accustomed to exchanging a “holy kiss” during the liturgy.”\* (Romans 16:16 Greet one another with a holy kiss.) It signified full acceptance, and the egalitarian character of Christians.

We use it now after the prayer of confession and assurance of pardon to celebrate our reconciliation to God by offering reconciling words and gestures to each other as people of God.

\*”The Companion to the Book of Common Worship” Bower, 2003