Follow Up Report to Mt. Scott Park Presbyterian Church's Technology Grant

Mt. Scott Park Presbyterian Church is entering an exciting season as we work to revitalize our congregation and reach out further into our community. We now have the tools of stable and reliable internet and wi-fi throughout our building, exterior security cameras to provide an extra measure of safety, and a state-of -the-art telephone system to help us.

The project cost $12,500, which covered 3,500 feet of cable, 14 cable runs, two points of entry, one patch panel, one swingout rack, five bullet cameras, one monitor, one network video recorder, and installation. It is easy to point to pieces of equipment or to search the internet on our guest network, and say this is what we gained. That leaves out the true accomplishments of the project:

- Even before the project was complete, our pastor was able to Zoom an entire Sunday worship service from her office without freezing or having to reconnect.
- We can now livestream our service on Facebook at the same time we are holding it over Zoom. The first time we did this, we more than doubled the number of participants, split equally over both platforms.
- We have the basis for moving to hybrid in-person/Zoom worship services until we are all able to safely meet in person. (We will continue with the Zoom software so our members can participate using a landline telephone.)
- Our youth are looking forward to streamed movie nights – no more being limited to VHS tapes or DVDs!
- Our new technology requires new skills which we will grow through a multi-generational team.
- Soon we will be able to offer our neighbors high-tech meeting spaces.
- We made new friends with Scott Greer and Jim Munson at Rose City Park who generously shared their knowledge and tips learned while upgrading the technology at Rose City.

We are grateful for the $1,000 the Presbytery provided towards this project. One way to think of the grant is that it purchased our nine new access points which provide stable wi-fi throughout our building. The nine access points cost roughly $1,000 and were essential to the project. Here are two of them:

Our new patch panel replaces an old DSL modem.

Our new security cameras record digitally so we can login from anywhere to view the video if needed.