

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church c/o The Mount Community Centre



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A note from the Interim Moderator August 2020

To the members and adherents of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

It goes without saying, we are living in some very interesting times. I am pleased by how quickly many of you have been able to adapt to the new situation brought on us by Covid. I have to confess that I still miss Sunday mornings when we were able to sing praises to God and see everyone. One day soon (I hope), we shall be back to worshipping together in person. Having said that, meeting virtually has certainly been better than doing nothing and in fact we have learned some valuable lessons that we shall want to keep doing when these times are a memory.

I want to report some things to you and invite your feedback.

First, Session continues to meet and move forward.

There are many decisions that continue to be made ensuring the congregation's ministry, mission and health are maintained. Some of these are financial, others pastoral, personnel or program related. Many decisions were made to help us go 'virtual' for Sunday worship.

Session has also been working in areas that will help move us into the future. We have reviewed important foundational items and want to share them with you. Below is our mission, values and guiding principles. These are all very important as decisions made by the Session on any variety of subjects will reflect what is stated below. They will also help determine who we invite to be our new minister. So please take a moment to review them asking God to give you understanding, wisdom and insight.

Mission statement

"Inspiring people to seek a rich relationship with God together."

We Value

- ✚ *worshipping with, caring for and enjoying each other.*
- ✚ *deepening our spiritual relationship with the Lord God through prayer, music ...*
- ✚ *the work of mission here and around the world.*

Guiding Principles

We will:

- Be guided by God's Word.
- Offer loving fellowship to all people
- Reach out into our community as the hands and feet of Jesus.
 - Make prayer a priority.

- Trust God to do supernatural things in our midst.
 - Be a Church of abundant generosity.
- Offer excellent large and small group experiences.
- Welcome and engage new people into our church family.
- Obey the Great Commission and focus on making disciples.

Please take a moment to answer these questions:

- 1) Are our mission, values and guiding principles something easily understood?
- 2) Is there anything in them that troubles you?
- 3) Is there something that you feel/think is missing?
- 4) Do they 'capture' who we are or at least who we want to be?

Please write down any comments you would like to make and send them to your elder or myself. We would love to hear from you – even if just to confirm you have received this and think we are on the right track.

Moving Forward

In regards to seeking a new minister, there are at least three important components.

Search Team: a Search Team is required to assist in finding a new minister. To that end, Session has named the following people to be the Search Team: Lori Bowerman (co-chair), Elaine Flett-Hurst, Dave Graham, Janet Halstead (co-chair), and Bruce Mills.

Minister Skills Inventory – in order to guide our search, we need to have a sense of what gifts and skills our new minister might need to help us in our ministry/mission as a congregation. You have received a document entitled “Minister Skills Inventory” and have had a few months to offer your suggestions. This information will be sent on to the Search Team so that they can recommend a list of what gifts and skills we think we need in a minister.

Full Time or Part Time - an important part of our deliberation is whether we seek a full time or part time minister. This is in great part contingent upon finances. It will also determine to a degree the gifts/skills required, the scope of ministry and the availability of candidates. *There will be a congregational meeting to discuss this matter and to make the final decision.*

So here is what I am asking of you:

- Please review our mission, values, principles and reflect on the questions. Let us know.
- Fill in the Minister Skills Inventory and send them along to Janet Halstead, Session Clerk.
- Be ready for a congregational meeting to decide ministry hours and scope of duty.

May God bless you and help you remain faithful to Christ during these times. I hope to see you in person sometime soon

(Rev. Dr.) Terry Ingram