

## **GENERAL SUMMARY OF ELDER/MEMBER MEETINGS 4/24/16 AND 5/1/16**

In light of Sean's resignation and the need to organize a Pulpit Committee and provide relevant feedback to them as we set our eyes on the future and who will be called as our next pastor; opportunity was provided the evening of 4/24 and immediately following worship on 5/1 for the purpose of open discussion with an Elder on the health and direction of the church and what we think core focal areas should be for the next pastor. Below is a summary of those meetings.

- Continue strong doctrinal, scriptural based worship sermons where the Gospel is clearly explained and presented.
- Adult Sunday school teaching is very good but Youth/Children's ministry has suffered. Lower numbers and little/no volunteer involvement from congregation. Will need to be an area of focus going forward.
- No problems with mixed or blended worship/music style.
- Need strong pastoring and relational skills in addition to strong/effective preaching.
- Need to redefine/reprioritize what our congregational missions program is going to be. Is it going to continue to be international as in the past or should focus be more on local community.
- Concern over decreasing membership, lack of unity, leadership (Session), lack of communication, apathy.

There were also many other specific ideas for local mission work, fellowship opportunities, growth opportunities, etc. that, in fairness to our next pastor, may best wait until he is on board to further develop.

Regarding John Mark's role from now to Sean's last day of 7/31/16; John Mark has expressed interest in the Senior Pastor position and will be given full consideration once the Pulpit Committee is organized. Between now and July 31 he will assume more responsibility gradually as the Session has agreed to allow Sean to do some fundraising during his normal salaried time. We are in discussion with the PCA on how best to handle this transition. To date their recommendation, should there be no final decision on our next pastor by 7/31/16, is for John Mark to lead the congregation as Associate Pastor and be named by the Session as Moderator of the Session for which he would receive additional compensation while in that roll. The Session will be meeting with John Mark 5/15 to begin discussion on what kind/how much support (i.e. administrative, music, etc) would be necessary if he were to assume this new role. An announcement for the new Pulpit Committee will be made this Sunday 5/15 with a two week time period to submit nominees ending 5/29. The Session intends to present a Pulpit Committee (5-7 people) to the congregation for a vote no later than two weeks (June 12) after that.

Thanks to all who participated in the meetings. If you were unable to attend - your Session still wants to hear from you. Please see any of us. Please continue to lift up in prayer; our Congregation, the Session, the Pulpit Committee, Sean and John Mark during this time of transition.

Respectfully in service,

Mark Ford, Frank Myers, Woody Watford, Steve Hawley, Michael Salley and Jeffrey Watford