



SESSION SUMMARY

The Session met four times during the month of June. A summary of the actions taken at those meetings is provided below.

COVID-19 pandemic

1. **Approved moving into Phase 2 of the Regathering Plan.** After assessing local COVID-19 rates and internal readiness, the Session believes that we are ready to enter Phase 2 of the regathering plan. Phase 2 is a blended approach that continues our online worship and begins offering limited in-person worship and several in-person ministry opportunities on site. Our first in-person worship service is scheduled for July 19.

James' Resignation

1. **Received Pastor James Forsyth's resignation as Senior Pastor and called a congregation meeting to release James from his call at MPC.** The Book of Church Order ("BCO") outlines the process for the resignation of pastors¹. *Pastors are members of their local Presbytery and so resign to the Presbytery, and not to the church.* The BCO calls for a formal act by the Presbytery to dissolve the pastoral relationship between the pastor and congregation after confirming that the pastor "is in good standing, with no charges pending nor problems known to prejudice his relationship with the Presbytery," and when the "matter has been handled through a duly called congregational meeting."² The BCO³ requires a congregational vote to release a pastor, similar to the vote to extend a call. (Under the BCO, the local church votes to confirm a call to a pastor.) *When a pastor submits his resignation to his congregation, his congregation is not affirming his new call, but is concurring with his resignation.*
2. **Designated Assistant Pastor David Stephenson as Acting Senior Pastor.** Based on David's experience at McLean and other churches, the Session believes him to be highly qualified to act as our Senior Pastor and unanimously agreed on him serving in that role.

¹ BCO Section 23-1a: When any minister shall tender the resignation of his pastoral charge to his presbytery, the Presbytery shall cite the church to appear by its commissioners, to show cause why the Presbytery should or should not accept the resignation. If the church fails to appear, or if its reasons for retaining its pastor be deemed insufficient, his resignation shall be accepted and the pastoral relation dissolved.

² Potomac Presbytery Bylaws Section 6-3.m

³ BCO Section 23-1b: If any church desires to be relieved of its pastor, a similar procedure shall be observed. But whether the minister or the church initiates proceedings for a dissolution of the relation, there shall always be a meeting of the congregation called and conducted in the same manner as the call of the pastor.

3. **Directed Pastor David Stephenson to prepare a plan for Acting Senior Pastor leadership.** The plan will focus on maintaining health and vitality of the congregational life, provide continuity of leadership, developing short-range goals for the church, and preparing for the election of a new Senior Pastor.

Budget

1. **Approved the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.** Our Fiscal Year 2021 starts July 1, 2020. In accordance with our by-laws, the Session approved the budget after it was presented to the congregation at an informational meeting on 17 June. For details on the budget click [here](#).
2. **Approved the budgets of our church plants; King's Cross and Cross Community.** As church plants, King's Cross and Cross Community fall under the Session's oversight and therefore their budget are approved by our Session.

Our Session

1. **Approved two additional candidates for Ruling Elder (Andy Laperriere and Hugh Whelchel) to be presented for election by the congregation at the Annual Meeting in September 2020.** Both Andy and Hugh are previously ordained. Andy has been on sabbatical from the Session as required by the BCO after having served two three year terms. Hugh, a long standing elder, is currently serving his first three year and will be presented for a second three year term.
2. **Approved committee assignments for our elders for FY 2021.** Included within our committees are representatives from the Board of Women and church staff.

Administrative

1. **Approved the minutes of the 9 June, 15 June, and 17 June called meetings of the Session.**