

Session Statement - August 14, 2022

First and foremost today, we all need Grace. This is a new situation for all of us so if we don't know the answer or run out of time, please have patience. We will respond during the week.

We have all been surprised by some challenging news recently.

- Pastor Jan is leaving at the end of this month.
- Pastor Stephen is retiring at the end of January.
- We are thankful that Pastor Taylor is currently planning to continue his ministry here at FPCA.
- We need to complete the Lombard process and be well on our way to fully implementing solutions to the issues identified before we will have Lehigh Presbytery's permission to start on a Mission Study. The Mission Study must be completed and approved by Presbytery before we can select a Pastor Nominating Committee for our new Head Pastor.

We are moving forward:

- We are heading into the Problem Solving Sessions with the Lombard Center on September 10 and 17 and October 8.
- We are in the process of writing the job description for a Bridge (or Interim) Pastor to serve as Head-of-Staff during this transition.
- We have hired a new Preschool Director, Linda Neely, and a Director of Children's and Family Ministry, Hubert Huang.

The more people who participate in the Lombard Problem Solving Sessions, the better the plan will be. And, of course, the more people who work to implement the plan, the more ready we will be to show a candidate for head pastor that we love and will work with them for our church. Sign-ups are accessible from the welcome page of our website.

We, as a Session, are very hopeful that our church will come together in our knowledge and faithfulness to Christ and serving our various communities. We will have to determine what is best to preserve from the past and what new ways God is calling us to be in the future.