



## December 4, 2022 Town Hall Meeting Notes

Session briefly reviewed a handout which listed the proposals in each of the four groups that Session approved separating the congregational proposals contained in the Final Lombard Report into: do now, can be done later; currently underway, and not doable.

- *Q1: Where can I read the Final Lombard Report?*

It is on FPCA's website under NEWS and then Lombard.

- *Q2: I am concerned that having a once a month combined service will be unwelcoming to visitors because they will be unaware that different Sunday's have different worship schedules.*

This is a congregational proposal that needs to be more fully evaluated by one of the Lombard issue teams. Currently, Session has approved two English services one at 8:45 AM and the other at 11:00 AM.

- *Q3: Have PNCs been established for 2 interim pastors (lead pastor and pastoral care pastor)? We seem behind the 8 ball.*

Interim pastors are hired by Session so there is no PNC for them. Instead, Session has formed two search teams. Chip Layfield is leading the search team for the **interim lead pastor**. This search has identified several interesting candidates. Andy Baranack is leading the search team looking for **interim pastoral care pastor** to replace Pastor Stephen when he retires at the end of January 2023 until the new, installed lead pastor called by a future PNC is on board. At this point a decision will be made as to how many pastors we need based in part on the size of our congregation. This team is just getting started.

- *Q4: What happens if the interim pastoral care pastor has not been found by the end of January 2023?*

In the event that the interim pastoral care pastor is not on board by the end of January 2023 work is underway among the Deacons, Stephen Ministers, and members of the congregation on a Plan B to provide pastoral care during this gap period. The congregation will have to step up to help provide pastoral care under a Plan B.

- *Q5: When will the next PNC be formed?*

The next PNC to be formed will be for our new lead pastor. This PNC cannot be elected until FPCA receives permission from the Presbytery Committee on Ministry

(COM). To get their permission we must first demonstrate that we are working the important proposals coming out of the Lombard process (the do now proposals). When they are satisfied work is well underway on these proposals, they will give us permission to conduct a Mission Study. This study will enable us to know who we are and what we feel God is calling us to do right now. Once the Mission Study has been approved by Session and COM we can elect a PNC to start the search for our next install lead pastor. Based on the Mission Study, they will know what kind of a lead pastor they will be searching for.

- *Q6: How will the congregation be updated on how work on the identified Lombard issues Session has determined work needs to start on now is progressing?*

The Lombard Steering Team is working on how to keep the congregation updated on the Lombard issues progress – no firm decision has been made on how to accomplish this. It will likely be in the form of periodic eblast updates or perhaps Town Halls. Once it has been made, it will be communicated to the congregation.

Summaries of decisions Session makes at each monthly Session meeting are available to the congregation in the form of highlights from that month's Session meeting. A link to the current document is placed in the weekly eblasts. It is the responsibility of members to keep themselves informed by reading the information Session is providing.

- *Q7: If someone feels particularly passionate about one of the teams/proposals, how do we get involved?*

Interest forms were available where members can indicate their interest in participating in three “do now” proposals (in rank order of their preference from A to C) along with their current contact information. The Lombard Steering Team is working on how to get this congregational participation interest information to the Elder leaders for each of the seven “do now” proposal areas. The goal is to ensure that the congregation “owns” the resolution of these proposals (and it may be determined that some proposals should be dropped). If you are interested, you can send your choices and contact information to [session@fpcallentown.org](mailto:session@fpcallentown.org). However, it was pointed out that one of the challenges on the mission study related proposal issue team is to maintain a balanced representation of members who are representative of our congregation so congregational participation on this issue team will be limited.

- *Q8: What is the timeline for these proposals? I need a clearer idea for timelines what the volunteer commitments requirements are.*

Some proposals like the census will be implemented early this month. Others will take more time to evaluate and develop a recommended course of action, but as the name implies, the “do now” proposals should be done now.