



## October 12, 2022 Session Meeting Highlights

The following are the highlights from the special October 12, 2022 Session meeting:

- Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) had an exit interview with Session regarding Pastor Jan's resignation. They asked two questions:
  - What did you learn during the time that Jan was the Transitional Leader?
    - Session and the congregation need to provide better support to our pastors in ways that are appropriate and meaningful for them as well as treating all our pastors, especially our female and LGBTQ+ pastors, with respect.
    - While we need to continue to try and find better ways to communicate with the congregation, the congregation needs to understand that they have an obligation to read the communications that we do send them.
    - Pastor Jan deeply cared for our church. However, some members felt that Pastor Jan was "rigid" if she disagreed with them so they didn't always feel like they were being heard. The question is what would it take for them to feel like they had been heard?
  - What learnings are important to take with you into the future?
    - Session needs to be more transparent with the congregation about what has gone on behind the scenes so they can understand why some actions were taken either by staff or Session.
    - Members need to find creative ways of increasing their level of participation and engagement in FPCA.
    - We can no longer afford to be all things to all people.
    - The congregation needs to understand that Session is not simply a "rubber stamp" for what the pastors want to do.
- The Interim Lead Pastor search team has received over 30 Personal Information Forms (PIFs) – some from Louisville and some from other sources. Currently, the team is in the process of narrowing down the list of PIFs to a smaller set for further inquiry.
- Rev Rhonda Kruse (Transitional Presbytery Leader) briefly reviewed the steps for calling an Interim Pastor and also the steps FPCA needs to travel from Lombard's issue identification, through working on addressing the identified issues, before we can receive a "green light" from COM allowing us to start work on a Mission Study which must be completed before we can form a Pastor Nominating Committee to search for our next installed lead pastor.
- Session discussed with COM and Rhonda Kruse ways to provide pastoral care once Pastor Stephen retires - especially if the bridge pastor is not in place by the end of January 2022 as well as how to help the congregation understand the boundary issues of how they will be able to interact with Stephen once he is retired. One of the outcomes of this discussion was Session's decision to form a search team for an interim pastoral care pastor to cover the period after Stephen leaves and until a determination can be made regarding the number of pastors we need (based on the congregation size and what we can afford.) This decision may not be made until we have a new, installed lead pastor in place. Additionally, Presbytery was asked to help us come up with a plan B if it appears that an interim pastoral care pastor will not be on-board by the end of 2022 since Stephen felt it would be very important for FPCA that he have about a month to transition to this interim pastoral care pastor.