

## **Pastor's Log July 8, 2020**

The Ewing-Covenant Session met for the first time Tuesday evening. All seventeen elders, along with Pastor Ann, Seminarian Freddy, and myself. It was the organizational meeting for the Session of our new congregation.

So, we took all the necessary steps: Carol Taylor was appointed the Clerk of the Session, and Joanne Durham her assistant. Don Lovett was elected the Treasurer, Laura Wallin is the President of the Corporation, and Sandra Austin the President of Vice. Isaac Mungra will be the chair of the Sessions Finance Committee, and Sandra Austin the chair of Stewardship. We made sure that all the church employees were continued in their positions; Carol Houghton and Marianne Lauffer, Eileen Beirne and Jerry Coleman, John Damrau, Natalie Houghton as our tech person and our Soloist/Section Leader Holden Bihl. As required, the Session established the role of Deacons for the new congregation, and then set the dates of ordination and installation for the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.

And then we got down to the serious work of the Session. Talking about the ministries that are important for the church as it moves into the future, and how this church will structure itself to carry out that ministry. The Futures Team will be doing the important work of determining that for the longer term future. But for the immediate future, the Session will decide that for the next four months. So we closed with my asking the Elders to send me their answers to these two questions: What is the most important thing that this church can do over the next four months? And, where do you most want to serve, what do you want invest yourself in for these next four months, right now.

I would like to know your answers to those questions, too. What is the most important thing our church should be doing in the next four months? Where and how do you want to invest yourself in Christ's ministry, right now? Please I me know.

We will continue to be very cautious and conservative in our reopening of our buildings to the congregation and to other groups. The session is working with the 12 Step Groups on guidelines for their use of the church grounds for their meetings, but not the buildings. If our local Pandemic statistics continue to show the downturn in transmission of the disease, we will begin to think about holding outdoor services and gatherings, but not in the near future. Our visitation teams will continue to set up outdoor "porch" visits, but they will continue to be only socially distanced, masked, outdoor visits. That is for the safety of those being visited, and for those visiting.

Finally, please remember that all donations should now be made to the Ewing –Covenant Presbyterian Church.

Grace and peace to you all.

*Pastor Paul*

(cont'd)



*"I am sharing with you the below message I sent out earlier this week to those in our congregation who are making phone calls, and "porch" visiting with members and friends. Please note that we are keeping safety in mind during this time."*

Friends,

It has come to my attention that we need to review safety.

As we watch the news, it is clear that Covid19 remains a formidable enemy. Many states are reporting an up-tick in the number of new cases, and many states are re-thinking or delaying planned stages of "reopening".

In this current circumstance, **please do not visit with persons inside their homes.** Even if they tell you it is ok to do so, and even if they invite you to come inside, decline *politely*.

Phone calls are great! Please continue to reach out by phone, as you have been doing all along. **Phone calls are very effective, and do not carry safety risks for you or others.**

Generally, anytime you leave you own home, and are interacting with people, wear a mask over your mouth and nose. If you are near others, maintain 6 feet distance.... this is the requirement to "social distance".

What is a "porch visit"? A porch visit is a visit done **outdoors in the fresh air.** You must still wear a mask over your mouth and nose. You must still social distance by being 6 feet apart from others.

If you have any concerns or questions, please call me: 610-220-9763.

God's peace,  
Pastor Ann