



NEW LIFE IN CHRIST CHURCH

A Communion of the Presbyterian Church in America

DR. DOUGLAS KITTREDGE, *Senior Pastor*
SEAN WHITENACK, *Associate Pastor*
JONATHAN ALLISON, *Music Director*

April 7, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

New Life in Christ Church has been abundantly blessed with our faithful, loving shepherd Pastor Doug for over 40 years. We have been additionally blessed with a “Timothy” in Pastor Sean. As the apostle Paul writes from prison to the Philippian church, *“But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father, he has served with me in the hope of the gospel”* (Phil. 2:22). It is with the understanding and appreciation of these blessings that we, the teaching and ruling elders of New Life, working together through prayer, have developed a proposed plan for transition of senior pastor responsibilities.

The transition, should it be approved by our congregation and Presbytery, will be in place by the end of 2019. Under the plan, Pastor Sean will become our senior pastor; Pastor Doug will become Senior Pastor Emeritus, continuing as an Assistant Pastor of Missions and Care Groups; Pastor Sam—who is already ordained as an Assistant Pastor—will become a salaried member of the staff.

As a church in the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), we have a process to guide us through this transition. Our Book of Church Order (Chapter 20), states that both the congregation and the Presbytery have respective roles in calling the next pastor of a church. Each member of our congregation has a critical role in this process. For this reason, we have called the April 29 congregational meeting. To move forward, it is vital that we have a quorum of at least 17% of our congregation there (approximately 67), so your attendance is very important.

At the meeting we will present our plan and address your questions. The Session is asking the congregation, through a vote, to select the session as the “pastoral search committee” to implement the transition plan. This is the first step of a process that the membership will be involved in, with future meetings where congregational votes will be necessary. Following is the motion that we plan to present at the April 29th Congregational Meeting.

MOTION: ***We the congregation of New Life in Christ Church vote to select the session of New Life in Christ Church as a Pastoral Search Committee to implement the pastoral transition plan presented by the session of New Life in Christ Church.***

The Session has been united from the beginning in affirming that this church is Christ’s church—not any pastor’s church, and we desire that God be glorified in this transition. We covet your prayers and involvement and want to hear your inputs on this plan.

Following is a summary of the principal events of the proposed transition timeline. (Some events have already occurred). **Congregational meeting dates are in bold.**

- January 5, 2019 – Pastor Doug announced to elders and deacons that a transition process would take place and his hope that Pastor Sean would take on senior pastor responsibilities over the coming year.
- January 26, 2019 – Pastor Doug announced at Focus Day that a transition process would take place and his hope that Pastor Sean would take on senior pastor responsibilities over the coming year.
- February 16, 2019 – Session met to address individual elders' vision on mission, convictions and values for New Life during and after the transition. The Session affirmed its desire to call Pastor Sean as Senior Pastor and to have Pastor Doug continue to minister as an assistant pastor.
- March 5, 2019 – Session met and approved the timeline and details of the transition plan to be presented to the congregation
- March 7, 2019 – First meeting of Session and Deacon representatives to discuss the proposed timeline for developing the budget for 2019-2020, which will be presented in June.
- April 7, & 14, 2019 – Announcement at morning service of plan and forthcoming letter with details.
- April 29, 2019 – Congregational Meeting to walk through transition process and answer questions about the transition. Vote on motion that the congregation approve the session as the pastoral search committee.
- June 3, 2019 - Congregational Meeting for Budget.
- Summer 2019 – The congregation will notice a transition of preaching responsibilities. Pastor Doug will preach about half of the Sunday morning services.
- August 4, 2019 – Pastor Sean will speak to his sense of call during evening service, allowing time for questions, in preparation of a September 4, 2019 Congregational Meeting.
- September 4, 2019 – (Wednesday) - Congregational meeting to vote on Pastor Sean becoming Senior Pastor and to accept Pastor Doug's resignation as Senior Pastor.
- November 3, 2019 – Installation service in the evening to install Pastor Sean as Senior Pastor and Pastor Doug as Assistant Pastor

We covet your prayers and appeal for you to commit to being involved as we work through this transition, and we do want to be transparent in all our actions and welcome your questions and concerns.

To God be the Glory



George Giddens

for the Session, New Life in Christ Church