

Moderator Update  
March 21, 2020

I'm sure in the upcoming months, you'll hear quite a bit from me as I seek to keep you informed of what we as a board are up to and what we are sensing.

As you know, we have felt it important to cancel all public church gatherings in light of COVID-19. But it is the hope of pastor & board that we all find ways to stay connected and to encourage one another to keep loving God and neighbor.

The simplest thing you can do is to phone others in the congregation. In addition to checking on how the other is doing, you can pray over the phone and even just read scripture together. An example of this is that the Women with Purpose had a great meeting this Friday over the phone by dialing into a common audio bridge just as the board had done earlier in the week. Another example was my opportunity to meet face-to-face over the Internet in a conference call to pray with Jacob's Well folks using Zoom. And I appreciated receiving a letter of encouragement by mail. Perhaps now is the time to send a letter or card if you prefer that medium.

If you are interested in gathering a small group together over the phone or Internet, you can give the church office a call to let us know. Pastor Dave, worship council and others are giving some thoughts as to how to help you in this regard. As Al has said, let's consider how we can do "church in the small".

We know that not meeting together can make it difficult for us to get the news out but hopefully we are reaching most of you, whether it is through the website, Facebook, e-mail, mail or by phone. If you have been receiving bulletins by mail but do not require it, just let Jenn know.

### **Donations**

We also know that not having a Sunday service makes it more difficult to submit donations but they are needed just as much as always. The two options now are cheque (as always) and now e-Transfer! We are not currently accepting cash donations.

Cheques can be mailed or dropped-off at the office. You might want to consider submitting post-dated cheques for several months. And as mentioned, you can now e-Transfer your donations to [donations@kpmbchurch.org](mailto:donations@kpmbchurch.org). Thanks Evelyn, for setting this up for us.

### **Interim Changes in the Board**

For a time, Mike Copland will need to take a break from his role on the board given the demands on his time as a medical professional in the response to COVID-19. Evelyn Wedel has agreed not only to fill in as interim chair of the Finance council but also sit in his stead at the board until he is able to return to the role.

### **Staffing**

I would also like to update you about the ongoing efforts being made by the board in terms of staffing.

### **a. Admin Assistant**

Sheryl Cornfield, Jenn Hall & Dave Chow have together been seeking to get the word out to churches, seminaries and Christian schools regarding the opening for admin assistant.

The original deadline of the end of March 31<sup>st</sup> is almost upon us. We are therefore very grateful that Jenn has agreed to stay on longer with reduced hours (initially Mondays & Thursdays) while we continue to get word out and receive more applicants. These reduced hours should work for both her and us, given the lightened load associated with the current restriction on in-person church gatherings. We are thankful for Jenn's flexibility and for Sheryl's efforts in coordinating the search for a new admin assistant.

### **b. Pastoral Search Committee**

As we prepare for Dave's departure in July, we have begun to consider transitions in terms of pastoral staffing. We are still forming a pastoral search committee that can direct the search for a permanent full-time pastor. Already, four of our church family have agreed to be part of that committee. Our goal is to have 5-6 people on that committee. We are close to finalizing that list! Much thanks to those who have said yes so far.

Please pray that

1. the right people are part of this committee
2. they will be granted wisdom and be sensitive to God's leading
3. they will listen well to the needs expressed by the congregation
4. God directs the right candidate to us

### **c. Transitional Pastor**

As a board, we think it highly unlikely that we will find a new pastor before Dave finishes his term with us. And so, while the search committee carries out their role, the board will ensure that in the interim, the needs of the congregation are met. Our first step in this regard is to see if we can find someone to act as a transitional pastor. Moreover, Nick Suen is happy to keep preaching once per month and possibly a little more frequently if we would like him to.

And we do know that God has gifted our congregation well. As we read in 1 Corinthians 1:7-9, it is God who has gifted us, God who keep us firm to the end and God who is faithful. Even should we not immediately find a transitional pastor, we believe we can live out the life of our faith community quite well for a time, just as we did during Dave's sabbatical.

Looking forward to meeting up with many of you virtually in the upcoming months & hearing wonderful things about God's work in & through many of you.

Until then,  
Chris Hall  
Moderator, KPMB Church