



October 1, 2020

Dear Faith Family Members,

RE: Session Update: 2020 Church Officer Nomination Process

You may have noticed we have not yet gathered to elect officers for the upcoming class of Deacons and Ruling Elders. As a Session, we have been waiting for the right time in order to make sure that as many members can actively participate in the church officer nomination process as possible. Our EPC Book of Order requires that only those church members who are present at the congregational meeting are eligible to vote in that meeting. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our denomination has made allowances; however, it still does not allow someone to participate in other ways than through a virtual or physical presence in the meeting.

Therefore, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our congregational activities, the Session is proposing a postponement in the current church officer nomination committee process with a return to more normal timing in the 2021 calendar year.

Current Session members outgoing and ending service at the end of the 2020 will be Kerri Daugbjerg and Eric Skoog. Michael McMahon has agreed to continue, in an advisory position only, for a 1-year extension for 2021. This would decrease current Session membership for 2021 by two members.

All slated outgoing Deacons have agreed to continue for a 1-year extension for 2021 in their current capacities as part of this proposal, to include Suma Jayakar - Prayer, Lauren Gipner - Youth, and Nico Fourie - Building and Grounds.

We believe this postponement will allow for us to enter into a church officer nomination process in 2021 with more active membership involvement. We anticipate this beginning in the spring of 2021. We will keep the current structure of leadership and classes of officers in place in the nomination process.

The Session cannot implement this postponement unilaterally. The active members of the congregation have to vote to approve this recommendation of the Session. Therefore, the Session has called a congregational meeting for Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup> following the worship service. The meeting will begin at 10:45am. If you would like to participate in the meeting via Zoom, please email us at [session@epclongview.org](mailto:session@epclongview.org) by Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>. You will receive a link and instructions for joining the meeting virtually via email.

If you would like your comments either in favor or opposition to the proposal shared in the October 18<sup>th</sup> congregational meeting, we are pleased to do so. Please contact Pastor Doug in the church office at 903-234-0032 or in writing at 3800 Judson Road, Longview, TX, 75605 or [dashley@epclongview.org](mailto:dashley@epclongview.org).

Thank you for your understanding during this unprecedented season. We are trusting God for guidance as we together seek the mind of Christ.

With gratitude,

The Longview EPC Session

Rev. Doug Ashley (Moderator), Buck Birdsong, Cindy Brelsford, Kerri Daugbjerg, Kathy Diamond, Shawn Frazier (Clerk), Rev. Shelley Kral, Michael McMahon, Eric Skoog, Lisca Van Zyl, Matt Yost.