Statement from Pastor Jason Mackey to the Rockville Worshipping Community, on behalf of the Leadership Council

Sunday, March 19, 2023

As you know there has been a lot of change here at Rockville over the past five years. Some changes have felt good and others have been painful. When Linglestown and Rockville began working together, the MET team envisioned a missional outpost to the uptown community. The on-site pastor would be a missional strategist seeking diverse community partnerships with businesses and nonprofits to create fresh expressions of ministry. The goal was that a new kind of worshipping community would grow naturally from these relationships. However, with COVID things changed. With the subsequent departure of Pastor Taylor, we drifted further off course and lost traction with our through the week community engagement. We have lost sight of the vision.

The Leadership Council has met, they have discussed, and they have prayed about the future of this campus. They know that I cannot provide the pastoral leadership we need for the future. They have heard your frustrations with the limitations and challenges we face here at Rockville. And they have discerned that there is great value to our original vision of community connections and missional engagement. Therefore, in an effort to get back on track, we will be suspending in-person worship here at Rockville. We will revive the process of founding a 501.c.3 for the ministries at this campus and we will be seeking out a missional strategist who can get us back into the community and lead us forward.

Our final in-person service will be on Sunday, May 7, when we will celebrate communion and remember our baptism. Between now and then, worship will continue. Jesus will still overcome death and the grave on Easter morning! And it will be my goal to help you identify your next steps in your faith journey. Perhaps you will continue worshipping at the Linglestown campus. We would love to have you and Pastor Rachel certainly looks forward to meeting you. For others, I know you have relationships with family and friends at other churches and I want to help you however I can to deepen those ties and find a faith community that will allow you to Love God and Love others.

Further questions related to the suspension of the in-person worship at the Rockville campus may be directed to Pastor Jason Mackey (jmackey@susumc.org) or to Pastor George Reynolds (greynolds@LinglestownLife.org) or the Leadership Council (LeadershipCouncil@LinglestownLife.org)

The Leadership Council is committed to continuing the ministry of the Rockville Campus and Ray's Place. The Leadership Council members will continue to update the progress and appreciates your continuing prayers.