



## **A Brief Summary of the Discernment Work of the Session and Congregation**

*January – October 2025*

Many thanks to all those who participated in the recent church survey and Session dialogues. The results reveal how the Lord has blessed Massanutten Presbyterian Church with a caring congregation who recognize opportunities for growth and development.

Our mission is to nurture disciples of Jesus Christ who are sent to join boldly with the Spirit's work in the world. While we acknowledge this call to nurture all generations, survey responses indicate a clear invitation to expand our ministry with children and youth by building on our existing programs and initiating new ones.

God calls us to widen our circle of welcome, ensuring that children, youth, families, and newcomers know they belong. We as a congregation are called to become more intentional in reaching out to our neighbors by extending welcome through partnerships with our preschool, scouting programs, and other community groups. Providing entry points through music, retreats, fellowship groups, and community mission and outreach allows us to share the love of Christ in ways that meet people where they are.

Strengthening communication will not only serve to better connect us, but will also assist us in bearing faithful witness to the wider community. Returning to practices such as new member classes will help people find their place in ministry.

The co-pastor model of ministry has worked well for our congregation, with Pastors Keith and Ann developing a mutually beneficial support system with regular prayer and communication. As the Session of MPC reflects on calling a new co-pastor, we discern the need for a pastor who is open to the calling of the Holy Spirit, a collaborative person to work alongside Pastor Keith in all areas of ministry.

Survey results point to pastoral opportunities abounding in the areas of inspiring and empowering church leadership, thinking creatively about worship, actively engaging in community mission and service, pursuing pastoral care and visitation beyond the bounds of grief visits, teaching, long- and short-term planning, energizing fellowship events, enabling small group ministries, enhancing our season of generosity and stewardship, valuing and engaging in the work of Shenandoah Presbytery, and training and supervising staff. Our congregation seeks a dreamer, a brainstormer, someone who is not afraid to try new things.

We will know the Holy Spirit is at work leading us to a new co-pastor when the candidate and the soon-to-be-formed Pastor Nominating Committee become excited and energized together about a possible future at Massanutten Presbyterian Church.

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