



Amy Starr Redwine, M. Div, Senior Pastor and Head of Staff
Melanie Marsh Baum, M. Div, Associate Pastor

January 9, 2019

Dear Church of the Covenant Members and Friends,

On Sunday afternoon, the session met with the Reverend Starr Redwine Amy and received the news that she has accepted a new call as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Richmond, Virginia. We have called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 27th at 9:15 am in the Dowd Commons for the purpose of dissolving Amy's relationship with the Church of the Covenant. That Sunday will be Amy's last day with us.

At the same meeting, the congregation also will receive a recommendation from the Nominating Committee to elect a new slate of officers for next year. The slate will be shared prior to the meeting.

The session wishes to express our gratitude to Amy for her faithful work among us and for her skilled leadership. We also extend our prayers and best wishes to Amy and her family as they prepare for this time of significant change. As the Covenant's governing body, we have identified several tasks to attend to prior to January 27th. Among these is a plan for pastoral leadership between Amy's departure and the arrival of an interim pastor. As is session's responsibility per the *Book of Order*, we will be appointing an Interim Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the process of selecting that person. The Committee on Ministry of our Presbytery will assign a liaison to help guide us through the transition. On Sunday, February 3rd, General Presbyter, Sharon Core, will preach in worship and meet subsequently with the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee and members of session.

During recent months, session appointed a task force (Sandy Ammon, Jenny Conner, Kathy Farkas, and Will Klein) charged to recommend a consultant to help us work toward greater health as a congregation. Although the decision to bring in a consultant was made before we knew we would be entering a time of pastoral transition, we believe that the guidance of a consultant will be invaluable during this season.

The task force conducted interviews with several consultants, and at Sunday's meeting, session approved the task force's recommendation to retain the services of Bill Appleton, the founder of Kairos Consulting LLC. Bill has extensive experience, including with non-profit and faith-based institutions. He has proposed a two-phase process that will include dialog and consulting sessions with various Covenant groups and summary reporting.

Although we are greatly saddened by the news of Amy's departure, in our work during the last few months, session has felt the Holy Spirit moving among us, and we trust that God is leading us during this difficult time to new and wonderful places. We hope that as opportunities arise, all will take part, so that we might move forward together as God's faithful servants.

Blessings,

The Church of the Covenant Session

Rev. Melanie Marsh Baum
Barb Clint
Jenny Conner
Elizabeth Hagen
Kitty Jarjisian

Chris Langmack
Lashawna Adams Mitchell
Reaver Nelson
Suchi Nelson
Rev. Amy Starr Redwine

Omar Siddiq
Jim Smekal
Lou Stark
Jim Tomaszewski
Will Klein, Clerk of Session