

Harrisburg Presbyterian Church

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Since March first, session and other church leadership have been focusing efforts on how HPC could begin moving into the major shifts that were identified coming out of New Beginnings. These shifts require intentional choices and decisions about how and what we focus on.

What were the Main Shifts coming out of New Beginnings?

- Shifting our focus to a Discipleship Culture, placing our highest value and priority on engaging and equipping people in faith.
- Provide a focused ministry to those who have practiced church and ministry in a “membership culture”, and to start a second worship service targeted at those members not currently worshiping with us who connect to God through Traditional Worship.
- Discern and develop a strategy to engage and connect with our community of Harrisburg, North Carolina.
- Realign our financial resource, and redevelop our facilities, both in order to meet our new ministry focuses and commitment to reach out to the community, thereby making our facility more rightsized, usable, adaptable and financially viable in the long term.

How is HPC moving forward into these shifts?

1st - A Ministry team was formed to identify and begin working with a group of people that fit into the target group of those “members who connect to God through traditional means” who currently aren’t worshiping with us. After a whole lot of faithful meetings, hard work, prayer, and collaboration, session approved the creation of a second traditional worship service to begin on September 11th (see second letter). We recognize the worship service addresses only part of the ministry needs of this target group, additional work will be ongoing.

2nd - We’ve begun to examine how we might better get to know our community of Harrisburg and the ministry needs of those who make up the largest segment of our population, “Babies and Bliss” and “Suburban Attainment”. Thanks to Lauren Jerome, the Director of the CDC, this fall, a group of church leaders will meet with a group of parents and staff from the CDC. Our goal will be simply to be fully present and listen for what God might be speaking to us through these people. With prayer and discernment we hope to identify the ministry needs that might help shape our ministries into not only the families of the CDC, but the broader community of Harrisburg.

3rd - On May 7th we hosted a “Resource Workshop” in which we invited our congregation to attend and participate. Twenty-five people gathered and discussed how we might better use our resources to meet the future ministry and mission of HPC. Two

main thoughts emerged from that meeting...one, see if Hope City Church (HCC) would be interested in purchasing the current CDC building, and two, relocate the CDC to our side of the street that currently includes the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall.

After several initial inquiries, Hope City expressed high interest in discussing a potential purchase. As a result, session formed two Task Forces. The first Task Force was established to evaluate the "feasibility" of a sale of the property to HCC. This would include looking at issues like timing, value, transition possibilities, etc.

A second Task Force was established shortly after, for the purpose of developing some potential concepts around the idea of rebuilding the CDC on our side of the street, as an integrated campus (all under "one roof"), and at the same time, "Rightsizing" our facilities to meet our current and future ministries and mission.

As a result of the work done by these two task forces, session has decided to secure an architect firm to provide the additional pieces for our evaluation. Their work will include items such as; facility evaluation, needs study, cost estimates, space planning, and concept drawings. As these pieces emerge, we'll be scheduling several meetings for discussion and input from the entire congregation.

I would also like to take you inside our session meeting and share with you how it became clear for us all that relocating the CDC and rightsizing our facilities is a wonderful and faithful opportunity to use our blessings to bless this community. Relocation and rightsizing would:

1. Provide a better opportunity to minister to a rapidly growing population in our area (Babies and Bliss)
2. Support and strengthen the CDC as a ministry of HPC and grow it into an increased outreach into our community
3. Enable the consolidation of facility plans with design to allow an increased ministry focus as we move toward a discipleship model (i.e. kitchen/dining area, gym/family life center/auditorium, community space, ...)
4. Allow us to reimagine the frontage along Hwy 49 to say something relevant to who we are and who we serve
5. Create more appropriate and safer environment for our CDC students to learn and play

As with much of the previous work we've done in New Beginnings, we've been relying on God's presence and guidance in our direction. We believe that our discernment is the most important aspect of our Identity in Christ, as well as participate in his mission to touch lives of our community.

I look forward to sharing more with you all as it become available. In the meantime, may God bless you and keep you!

Pastor Tim Bostick

