



# Paxton Presbyterian Church

Established 1732

3500 Sharon Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111

717~561~0510, [www.paxtonehurch.org](http://www.paxtonehurch.org)

**September 20, 2020**

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME**

(Take time to prepare your heart to worship God.)

PRELUDE

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

MUSIC INTERLUDE

**TO GIVE PRAISE TO GOD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

from Psalm 95:1,2

O Come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation!

**Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.**

\* HYMN 664 "Morning Has Broken"

Morning has broken  
like the first morning;  
blackbird has spoken  
like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing!  
Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing  
fresh from the world!

Sweet the rain's new fall  
sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall  
on the first grass,  
Praise for the sweetness  
of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness  
where God's feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight!  
Mine is the morning,  
born of the one light  
Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation;  
praise every morning,  
God's re-creation  
of the new day!

\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*(Time of silent reflection)*

\* ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the Good News. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Praise God. Amen.**

\* GLORIA PATRI

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**TO CELEBRATE THE FAMILY OF FAITH**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

MORNING PRAYER/LORD'S PRAYER

**TO HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED**

FIRST LESSON

Exodus 16:2-15

**This is the word of the Lord.**

Thanks be to God.

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 20:1-16

**This is the word of the Lord.**

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"God and the Not-Fair Card"

Pastor John Green

HYMN 719 "Come, Labor On"

DISCIPLESHIP AND MISSION

719

Come, Labor On

Capo 1: (G) (C) (G) (Em) (C) (G) (C) (D) (G)  
A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> Fm D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>



1 Come, la-bor on. Who dares stand i - dle on the har - vest plain  
2 Come, la-bor on. Claim the high call - ing an - gels can - not share;  
3 Come, la-bor on. Cast off all gloom - y doubt and faith - less fear!  
4 Come, la-bor on. No time for rest, till glows the west - ern sky,

(Em) (B7) (Em) (B) (Em) (C) (D)  
Fm C7 Fm C Fm D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>



while all a - round us waves the gold - en grain? And to each  
to young and old the gos - pel glad - ness bear. Re - deem the  
No arm so weak but may do ser - vice here. Though fee - ble  
till the long shad - ows o'er our path - way lie, and a glad

(G) (Em) (C) (G) (Am) (D7) (G)  
A<sup>b</sup> Fm D<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> B<sup>b</sup>m E<sup>b</sup>7 A<sup>b</sup>



ser - vant does the Mas - ter say, "Go work to - day."  
time; its hours too swift - ly fly. The night draws nigh.  
a - gents, may we all ful - fill God's righ - teous will.  
sound comes with the set - ting sun, "Well done, well done!"

APOSTLE'S CREED

**TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES**

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

\* DOXOLOGY

SENDING

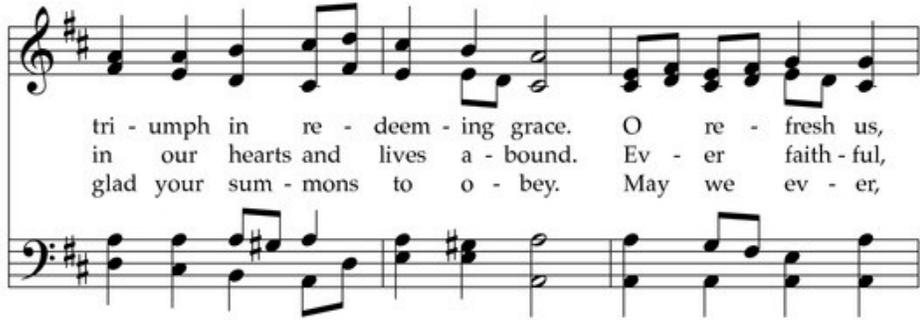
# 546 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with  
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's  
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling



joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,  
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion  
pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,



tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,  
in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,  
glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,



O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.  
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

## TO GO REJOICING IN GOD'S NAME

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I am writing to inform you of some dynamic and needed amendments to the Church's by-laws and government structure that the Session will be submitting to the membership for consideration at the next congregational meeting, scheduled for Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Last year, after issues were encountered by the 2019 Nominating Committee in attempting to fulfill the requirements of the current by-laws, an ad hoc committee was formed from its members to review the Church's 2008 Strategic Plan and by-laws. The committee worked closely with me during the entire review. The focus of that review was to see what aspects of the Plan had been completed, what aspects had not and what aspects may no longer be relevant. This necessarily involved a consideration of issues with the by-laws which had not been reviewed for some time and, in their current state, did not reflect changes in the church's membership size, demographics and committee structure.

During the ad hoc committee's review process and starting with issues encountered by the Nominating Committee during its work several issues became apparent that the committee felt needed immediate attention and brought those to the Session for consideration. The need for immediate attention stems from several factors. First, the Church's by-laws had several areas that needed to be updated to match the current manner in which Church government actually operates. Second, the nominating process for church officers had become increasing difficult over the years based on current by-laws requirements considering the size of the membership, the existing demographics of the congregation, the number of eligible candidates and the desire to avoid conflicts of interest and promote diversity. Third, the committee structure of the Church had several areas that needed to be clarified. Finally, in assessing the long term health of the Church, it became apparent to the committee that the current structure of the Church's government (e.g required number of elders and deacons, the committee structure) was not sustainable.

The committee presented its findings to Session at its February 2020 meeting. The Session has worked steadily and thoughtfully on these recommendations and is now prepared to present them to the members and to urge the congregation to adopt those recommendations in several key areas which are summarized below.

**Church Leadership**—the by-laws currently provide that the Session and Deacons consist of no fewer than 15 members. The amendment would provide that each Board would have up to 15 members but no fewer than 13.

An additional amendment would provide that the Session Moderator (Pastor) would appoint the Ministry (committee) chairs annually.

Two related amendments would pertain to the Nominating Committee. The current by-laws require **four** Members-at-Large be on the committee. The amendment would provide for **two** Members-at-Large. In addition, language in the by-laws requiring the Committee to nominate one eligible member for each office would be amended to requiring it to use its "best efforts" to provide an eligible nominee for each office.

**Church Treasurer**---currently the by-laws do not provide for an assistant treasurer. Due to the burdens on the Treasurer and to provide better succession planning, the recommendation is to amend the by-laws to provide for the appointment by Session of an assistant treasurer.

**Corporate Officers**---the by-laws currently provide for the officers of the corporation to consist of a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer but makes no provision for a Vice President. The amendment would add the office of Vice President, elected by the Session like the other positions, and permit the Vice President to preside at meetings of the corporation in the absence of the President and such other duties as Session may assign. The term would be for one year.

Much thought and prayer has gone into these recommendations. These are items that need immediate attention if the Church is to continue to fulfill its mission in an effective and efficient manner. Your prayerful consideration of these much-needed updates is appreciated.

God's Peace,

Pastor John Green

# Paxton Presbyterian Church Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 20, 2020

6:30 pm – following Prayers in the Woods in the Grove (in case of inclement weather, Prayers in the Woods and the Congregational Meeting will be held under the pavilion at Saussaman Park, Paxtang.)

The purpose of the meeting is to review and adopt the proposed changes to the Paxton Presbyterian Church By-Laws.

*Article IV The Session (By-Laws page 3) and Article VIII Board of Deacon (By-Laws page 6) amend as follows:*

Article IV, Section 2 currently states: There shall be no fewer than 15 ruling elders,...

Article VIII, Section 2 currently states: There shall be no fewer than 15 deacons,...

Amend wording for Article IV, Section 2: **There shall be up to 15 ruling elders with no fewer than 13,...**

Amend wording for Article VIII, Section 2: **There shall be up to 15 deacons with no fewer than 13,...**

*Add Section 5 to Article IV The Session (By-laws page 3)*

**Section 5: The Session Moderator (Minister) shall annually appoint the Chair of each Session Ministry.**

*Article IX Church Nominating Committee (By-laws page 7) amend as follows:*

Article IX currently states: Four members-at-large shall be elected...

Amend wording for Article IX: **Two members-at-large shall be elected...**

*Article IX Church Nominating Committee (By-laws page 7) amend as follows:*

Article IX currently states: The committee shall nominate one eligible person for each office to be filled.

Amend wording for Article IX: The committee shall **make its best effort to** nominate one eligible person for each office to be filled.

*Article XI Section 4. Corporate Officers (By-laws page 8) amend as follows:*

Article XI Section 4 currently states: The treasurer, whether an elder in active service or active member of the church, shall be appointed by the session. Other treasurers shall be appointed as needed.

Amend wording for Article XI Section 4: The treasurer, whether an elder in active service or active member of the church, shall be appointed by the session. **An assistant treasurer, whether an elder in active service or active member of the church, shall be appointed by the session.** Other treasurers shall be appointed **by the session** as needed.

*By-laws, Article XI, Section 1 Corporate Officers (By-laws page 7) amend as follows:*

Add position: **(b) The vice-president.**

Renumber as follows: **(c) The secretary; and (d) The treasurer.**

*By-laws, Article XI, Sections 2-4 Corporate Officers (By-laws page 7) amend as follows:*

Add Section 3.: **The vice-president who shall be a voting member of the congregation in good standing, duly elected to a term of active service on the session, and who shall be elected by the session shall serve a one-year term. In the absence of the president, the vice-president shall chair meetings of the corporation and such other duties as shall be assigned from time to time by the session or the president.**

Renumber as follows: **Section 4. The secretary...**

**Section 5. The treasurer...**

***“May the God of peace give you peace at all times in all ways.” - 2 Thessalonians 3:16***

**The Peace & Global Witness Special Offering** enables the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) to promote the peace of Christ by addressing injustice in our own communities and around the world. A *Season of Peace* began Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> and goes through October 4<sup>th</sup>, World Wide Communion Sunday. There are three ways you can give:

Text PEACE to 20222 to give \$10

Donate online at <http://pcusa.org/peace-global>

Through our church: Send in your offering to the church or bring your offering to Pray in the Woods.

If writing a check place on the **memo line your church envelope number and Peace & Global Witness Offering.**

If you would like to use the Peace & Global Witness Offering envelopes, they are in the puzzle box and will also be on the offering table at Prayer in the Woods.

Thank you for your offering and peace be with you!

 *In Memoriam*

*We hold in Christian Memory, Betty Ludwig, who joined Paxton Church in 1960 and entered the Church Triumphant on September 13, 2020. Our sympathy and prayers are extended to her daughter, Carol Bell, family and friends.*