



Paxton Presbyterian Church

Established 1732

3500 Sharon Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111

717~561~0510, www.paxtonehurch.org

September 6, 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

Jesus said, "Come unto me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Let us take his yoke upon us, and let us learn of him.

For He is meek and lowly in heart, and you shall find rest unto your souls.

We seek His rest for we are His workmanship, and created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Let us worship God.

* HYMN 475 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

* **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

O God, if we carry the name Christian, we are signs of Christ's presence in the world. Yet we confess that we do not always live as joyous, loving, and hopeful people in our homes, our workplaces, and our communities. We get so caught up in the values of this world that we do not seek to discuss your will for our lives. By your grace and forgiveness, renew us in mind, body and spirit, that we will witness and work for Christ wherever you have placed us. In his name we pray. 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

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

SPECIAL MUSIC

GOSPEL LESSON

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 11:25-30

HYMN 724 “O Jesus I Have Promised”

* APOSTLE’S CREED

TO OFFER OUR GIFTS AND OUR LIVES

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS

* DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

* HYMN 719 “Come, Labor On”

TO GO REJOICING IN GOD’S NAME

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

BAPTISM

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing 475

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - e - ne - zer; hith - er by thy help I'm come;
 3 O to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 Let that grace now, like a fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee.

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by flam - ing tongues a - bove;
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - dering from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;

praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love!
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
 here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

724 O Jesus, I Have Promised

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;
 2 O let me feel thee near me! The world is ev - er near:
 3 O let me hear thee speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 4 O Je - sus, thou hast prom - ised to all who fol - low thee

be thou for - ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;
 I see the sights that daz - zle; the tempt - ing sounds I hear.
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will;
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be.

I shall not fear the bat - tle if thou art by my side,
 My foes are ev - er near me, a - round me and with - in;
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if thou wilt be my guide.
 but, Je - sus, draw thou near - er and shield my soul from sin.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard - ian of my soul.
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

Written to highlight the promises made by the author's daughter and two sons at their confirmation, this text equally well recalls the promises of discipleship made in Baptism and in the Reaffirmation of the Baptismal Covenant. The tune was written for a text now unused.

719

Come, Labor On

Capo 1: (G) (C) (G) (Em) (C) (G) (C) (D) (G)
 A^b D^b A^b Fm D^b A^b D^b E^b A^b



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^b E^b



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^b Fm D^b A^b B^bm E^b7 A^b



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!"

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

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...