



June 7, 2019

A NOTE FROM PASTOR DAWN & ELDER DON DODDRIDGE: NO SALE!

As you may remember, in early March, the church was approached by a developer who indicated an interest in buying and developing the back portion of the church's property. As a result of that inquiry, the session established a Main Task Force of seven to discern how to move forward. The Main Task Force proposed the establishment of six Sub-Task Forces who represented the various ministries of the church to prayerfully discuss, discern, and submit their recommendations on how best to respond. The Main Task force also consulted with several members of our congregation who have expertise in interacting with developers and also have an in-depth understanding of the downtown real estate market.

After many meetings and much prayerful discernment, the Main Task Force recommended, and the Session approved, to **DECLINE** the developer's initiative. This means that the church will **NOT** be entering into any discussions with the developer to further discuss the developer's interest and/or vision for developing the back portion of our church property. Rather, the session has decided to intentionally reinvest in the ministry of the church in downtown St. Petersburg and beyond by implementing our best efforts to ensure the church's future viability.

Toward that end, the session has assigned each Sub-Task Force with the work of identifying six recommendations (pertaining to the ministry area of the church they represent) that will best help the church flourish and grow. Three recommendations are to have little or no cost associated with their implementation while the remaining three recommendations would include ministry initiatives that require additional resources (time or money) to implement. The deadline for the completion of this work is July 31st. In early August, the session will meet and prioritize implementation of these recommendations.

The session has been and continues to be concerned with maintaining clear and transparent communication during this process. Toward that end, the reports of the six Sub-Task Forces have been published on the church website, two updates have been sent out to the congregation and to the Day School parents, bulletin inserts have been used, and two town hall meetings have been offered for the parents of our Day School children.

Continued...



...being and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

First Presbyterian Church

These meetings worked so well that we will also be scheduling a congregational potluck dinner in late August or September. At that dinner, an update will be given on our process, and each Sub-Task Force will share details of their approved recommendations, their timeline for implementation, and what they need in order to accomplish their ministry goals. There will also be a time for questions and answers.

This is an exciting time in the life of the church. And together, with the leading of the Holy Spirit, we have an opportunity to write a new chapter in the history of God's church at FPC – St. Petersburg. We believe that God has a plan of abundance for our congregation and the role we can play in expanding God's mission in St Petersburg and beyond. Please continue to pray for the church and the members of the Task Forces as they do their work.

Donald (Don) Doddridge
Active Elder & Moderator of Finance
Committee and Task Force

Rev. Dr. Dawn M. Conti
Sr. Pastor & Head of Staff