



# Clemmons Presbyterian Church

*Believing, Belonging, Becoming and Branching Out*

## **A letter from the Session and Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to the Congregation of Clemmons Presbyterian Church:**

Since our Session and Presbytery approved the CPC Mission Study in September (2020), the congregation elected an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). We have diligently worked toward the study's goal to call a full time associate pastor for Clemmons Presbyterian Church. This letter is to communicate that the budget for 2021 and associated pledges as they now stand preclude the calling of an associate pastor at this time.

Our efforts have been guided by the results of the 2020 study which included feedback from surveys sent to the congregation and interviews in the congregation and community. Unfortunately, COVID 19 has thrown an unexpected wrench in the works of much of the life of our church, most notably our finances. Based on reports received from the Finance Committee, pledges for 2021 are down 9% since 2019. Non-pledged monies often found their way into our offering plates and are a major contribution to the budget for the church. These gifts were significantly impacted when in-person worship was suspended over the past thirteen months, creating a further deficit in revenues.

A five year cash flow projection (2021-2025) was prepared for the Session. It showed that if we only received 2021 pledges as receipts, the funds for a full time associate pastor for five years would need to come from our accumulated reserves. Such action would reduce the reserves significantly, to a point the Session felt would be imprudent at this time. Additionally, the responsibilities for a full time associate pastor were prepared with a dedicated focus on adaptive change. Therefore, reconfiguring the position from full time to part time would require revisiting the rationale to which, through the Mission Study, the Session believes CPC is being called.

Therefore, the Session has tabled the calling of an associate pastor until the cash flow projection can be updated and reviewed based on actual receipts as of June 2021. A secondary review will occur in December 2021, to analyze our 2021 financial position and our pledges for 2022. Based on the findings of these reviews, the Session will continue to explore the fiscal feasibility of calling a full time associate pastor, and report to the congregation and Presbytery. Your Session is exploring some additional support for pastoral coverage for our congregation after Rev. Lingan departs in September.