

May Transition Committee Update

The Transition Committee was created to coordinate the many and varied activities associated with the announced retirement of Pastor Pete James. The Committee works with the Presbytery, Session, Staff, and the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) on a regular basis to anticipate issues, coordinate activities, and facilitate communication. While the Committee's mission remains unchanged and its work has continued with a focus on what is happening inside our church; on March 12th Pastor Pete announced that the VPC building would close and that plans were being made for a Livestream Worship Service on March 15, in response to health concerns created by the Coronavirus. The virus has imposed changes on the way we live, worship, work, and connect to others in the blink of an eye. Fueled by the creative energy of the Holy Spirit, church leadership and staff moved not only Worship Services, but also ministry operations to a virtual format and ramped up Congregational Care to support our church community during this challenging time. Our 10:10am Learning Community classes have been expanded ([see schedule](#)); NextGen Ministries provides an hour of Bible story-based curriculum and games, Monday through Friday for elementary age children and weekly Underground large and small group meetings for teens; and ESOL classes are virtual and encompass more than 188 students and teachers. Our weekly Wednesday Night Prayer Service continues, and a daily devotional time with our pastors has been added to our [Facebook page](#). These are just a few examples of how VPC has set aside the constraints of relational ministry within a church building to become a church without walls. Talk about "transition"!?!?

Our pastors and staff, themselves sheltering in place at home and adjusting to new rhythms, have effectively leveraged technology to continue the disciple-making mission of VPC. After more than 40 years in ministry at VPC, Pastor Pete should be on a celebratory glidepath to retirement, savoring milestones in his final year at VPC. Instead he and Pastor Glenda, Pastor Connie, and Pastor Charles have tapped into their deep collective experience to lead our church during this time of adversity and challenge. They have mobilized the gifts of the entire church staff and the internet to ensure that our mission of Becoming Like Christ Together for the World is no longer limited to 124 Park Street SE; but far, far beyond. At our Transition Committee meeting on April 29, 2020, we learned that viewership of both Worship Services and Learning Community classes indicates participation BEYOND levels recorded prior to the closure of the VPC building. GOD is Good All the Time and All the Time God is Good. Please give thanks and praise,

"Now to Him who is able to do infinitely more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work in us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations forever and ever. Amen" Ephesians 3:20-21

Please also pray for our pastors and staff --- giving thanks to God for their many gifts and lifting them up for renewal and refreshment.

Despite the impact of the Coronavirus, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to prayerfully move forward in the search for a new Senior Pastor. Soon their weekly meetings will

increase from one to two. Please continue to check the [PNC webpage](#) on the VPC website and pray for each member by name and for God's leading as they consider candidates.

Friends, VPC's transformation within the last month is nothing short of astounding and the Lord has provided in spectacular ways. We are looking forward to the time when we can worship together again, but in the interim we look to God with confidence and praise.