

Report from the Transition Team

We want to update you on some exciting news.

In December of 2019, Session created a Commission on Reorganization to study when we elect church officers and how we organize ourselves. The Commission worked diligently throughout much of 2020 and made two recommendations to Session.

The first recommendation was to elect church officers in February, to train and examine them in the spring, and to ordain and install them before the start of the summer break for schools. This moves the training of officers away from the busy Advent/Christmas season. Session approved the recommendation and it was implemented this year.

The second recommendation was to adopt a leadership and management structure where the day-to-day management of our ministries and programs is separated from the discernment of God's calling for FUPCDC and long-term planning to answer that call. This structure has been used successfully by many other Presbyterian churches for several years. Session approved this recommendation, held a forum for the congregation via Zoom on January 10, 2021, and established a Transition Team to implement the new structure beginning June 1, 2021.

So, you might be asking "what does the new structure look like?"

Session will have nine (9) Ordained Elders serving three-year terms, plus one optional Youth Elder serving a one-year term. Session will be God-centered; it will focus on God's calling to FUPCDC, establish short-term and long-term goals (strategic vision and focus) to achieve that calling, and monitor the spiritual health and vision of the congregation as a whole. In addition, each Elder will serve as a liaison to one of the ministry teams to provide support and a connection to Session.

The day-to-day management and implementation of our ministries and programs will be carried out by nine (9) ministry teams, each headed by a team leader. The ministry teams and a brief description of their areas of responsibility are:

Worship: Provide high quality, engaging, and creative worship experiences for all ages

Mission: Serve others in the spirit of Christ in the local, regional, national, and international communities

Growing in Faith: Encourage and nurture all ages to grow in their faith and apply it in their daily lives

Fellowship: Create, sustain, and cultivate opportunities for the congregation to grow together in fellowship

Congregational Care: Care for members and friends of the church

Evangelism & Outreach: Spread the good news about Jesus Christ and the work of the church with those outside our walls

Administration: Oversee and coordinate the business management of the church including personnel, information technology, records management, risk management, safety & security, office operations

Property: Manage the building, grounds, furnishings, and equipment of the church

Stewardship: Encourage faithful stewardship while managing the church finances

On Tuesday, March 16th Session approved the following Ministry Team Leads for a 2-year term beginning June 6, 2021:

Worship: Martin Andrews

Mission: Pam Cox

Fellowship: Betsy Gilbert

Congregational Care: Ellen Nuernberger

Administration: Jim Stacy

Property: Mike Gundel

Stewardship: Dennis Dingle

Photos and a short bio for each are on the following pages.

At this time we are in the process of filling the two vacant positions (Growing in Faith and Evangelism & Outreach). If you would like to recommend someone or if you are interested in filling one of those positions please contact Pat Manalio or Pam Cox.



Martin Andrews

Martin is Senior Director, Army Programs at Exeter Information Technology Services. He served as a Deacon and Elder at Miami Shores Presbyterian Church in Miami, FL. There he served as Moderator of the Diaconate and chairman of the Music, Outreach (Missions), and Fellowship Committees. He also participated in and led missions to Cuba, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, and Peru. He joined FUPCDC in 2007. We are truly blessed that he has been very active in our music ministry, sharing his talents as part of the choir and frequently being a soloist during worship. Martin served two terms on the FUPCDC Nominating Committee. He has also participated in mission projects such as the 2008 mission trip to Yucatan and the Rise Against Hunger events.



Pam Cox

Pam was born in Charleston, WV and grew up in Woodbridge. She is the oldest of three siblings. Pam joined FUPCDC in 2015 and quickly became involved in Mission. She has participated in our Spread the Bread ministry, organized National Night Out and Rise Against Hunger events as well as serving on the Mission and Outreach Committee. In addition she has served as greeter and liturgist. Most recently Pam has served as the Elder for Mission and Outreach.



Dennis Dingle

Dennis is a native of Ohio who served 30 years in uniform with the Army and has continued as an Army Civilian employee since 2007. Dennis and his Family have attended FUPCDC, with the exception of overseas or out of state Army assignments, since first arriving in Virginia in 1992. Dennis is married to Diane and they have three children and three grandchildren. Dennis has served as an usher, liturgist and a member of the Stewardship Committee and the Endowment and Financial Review teams. Dennis and Diane are Official Friends of the Church and look forward to continuing to serve the FUPCDC congregation and community of faith.



Betsy Gilbert

As an Air Force family moving to this area in 1988, we expected that this was a 3-year assignment. What a blessing that it wasn't! We have been part of the FUPCDC family for about 31 years. I had the pleasure of teaching at Stafford High School for 18 years. I am originally from Western New York State, met and married my college sweetheart, Bruce, in 1968 and thoroughly enjoyed the AF life, living and traveling around the U.S. and Europe. We are parents of Jennifer and Kevin, have six grandchildren and delight in spending time with both families. Over the years, I have served on various committees. I was ordained and served as Deacon for six years including three years as Deacon Moderator. I have just completed three years as Elder for Congregational Connections.



Mike Gundel

Mike joined FUPCDC in 2010 after being told about our church by a friend. He is married to his wife Karen and they have a young adult son, Dylan. He has served on both the Building & Grounds and Safety & Security Committees. When we were able to worship in person Mike could be found in the Narthex Welcome Center looking out for everyone's safety. Mike has done a lot of work on the church building including ensuring that all windows operate properly and converting all of the light fixtures to LED. In addition he participates in bible studies. Most recently he has served as the Elder for Building & Grounds.



Ellen Nuernberger

In 1995, my family and I moved to Woodbridge, VA area and I began a search for a local church. At FUPCDC I received a very warm personal welcome. Both of my children became members when I joined in 1997. Emily's husband Robby has since joined and their daughters Ellie and Sadie were baptized in June 2018 and September 2020. I have been a Deacon since 2019. During this time, I've held the position of secretary and subsequently became a Co-Moderator. I find my position as a Deacon fulfilling and rewarding. Recently, I have also been involved in Spread the Bread, providing meals to the homeless. I have found this to be very humbling and rewarding as well.



Jim Stacy

Jim has been married to Pam for 43 years. They are the parents of Matthew Stacy and Ashleigh Stacy-Reese; and are the grandparents of Orson Reese (age 4 1/2) and Micaiah Reese (20 months). Ashleigh is married to Josh Reese. Jim was an Army Brat, born in Amami Oshima, Japan, who calls Clarksville, Tennessee his hometown. He is retired from both the Army and Federal Government with 39 years in the Intelligence Community. He is a volunteer docent at the National Museum of the United States Army, Ft. Belvoir, VA and is looking forward to its reopening.