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December 12, 2017

Friends,

Last September, in an attempt to build community after the Harvey floods, Session temporarily reduced the number of worship services. Later, after receiving positive feedback on worshipping together, we made the decision to extend this schedule through the balance of the calendar year with the expectation that by talking with you and praying about this, we could determine whether this was a change that should or could be made permanent.

As a Session body, we have spent much time in prayer, fasted, sought the Lord's guidance and deliberated. We have spoken with many individuals and families for whom the service is a very important part of their Sunday morning worship experience, and specifically connected with parents of young children who navigate their Sunday mornings here in a desire to worship and be fed.

Through all of this, we have come to understand that the decision is a much more complex issue than simply determining how many worship services to offer and at what times, but rather a matter of how the Lord wants to shape the worship and discipleship of this congregation.

It was the original goal to resolve this matter by the end of the year, however, at a special meeting on Tuesday, December 5, the Session determined that we did not have sufficient clarity to make a final decision. Instead, it was determined that we would maintain the present schedule while we continue to seek the Lord's guidance and receive your feedback.

If we have not yet had an opportunity to speak with you, we want you to know that we are anxious to hear how the current schedule is affecting you and/or your family and your hopes for worship at FPC moving forward. To enable this process, we will have elders available in Palm Court on Sunday mornings, we will continue to receive email feedback at worshipcommittee@fpchouston.org, and we will offer another "Coffee & Questions" time on Sunday, January 7 with Pastor Birchfield and the Session Clerks.

As one of the central components of our faith, we know how important this decision is to each of you. We want to thank you for your continued prayers as this Session leans on God's wisdom and understanding in determining the shape of worship at FPC.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Calkins".

David Calkins
Clerk of Session 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cindy Cook".

Cindy Cook
Clerk of Session 2019

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Moore".

Robert Moore
Clerk of Session 2020