



First Baptist Church of Kennett Square

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of Kennett Square

*In the heart of town ... with the town at heart*

Aug. 2, 2021

To God's beloved people,

It is with profound sadness that we accept Pastor Dan's resignation. He and the Nicewonger family have served us faithfully these last seven years and God has blessed this ministry. Through changes in leadership, the arrival of new friends and the departure of old ones, a cancer diagnosis, and a global pandemic: this body has grown stronger. We owe a great deal of that renewed strength to the commitment and great care that Pastor and Nancy have shown for us. We are grateful.

We write this letter with an equally profound sense of optimism. While our relationship with Pastor Dan is changing and there is a measure of uncertainty in the days ahead, there are many reasons to be hopeful. It is worth remembering Joseph's words in Genesis 50:

*You planned evil against me; God planned it for good to bring about the present result—the survival of many people.*

The enemy does not want to see this ministry thrive, but God has sent us another wave to ride!

With that in mind, here is what comes next.

- This week, the Pastor Relations Committee will meet to review options and discern next steps. After which, the PRC will meet with Pastor and Nancy to finalize the details of Pastor's transition out of his full-time role. As a people, we are committed to caring for the Nicewonger family.
- The Elders have reached out to Rev. Frank Frischkorn (regional executive pastor with American Baptist Churches of Pennsylvania and Delaware) regarding the process for calling an interim Pastor and, while it will take some time, that process is underway. In the interim, we have many options for pulpit supply at our disposal, including our very own teaching team.

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It goes without saying that we have much to pray over. As indicated above, there are many important decisions to make in the near term. *God, grant us wisdom.*

Similarly, we have a great opportunity ahead of us to formalize our new relationship with Pastor Dan. While he can no longer be on our payroll, his heart for this community can be unleashed on behalf of First Baptist Church. *God, help us to see through your eyes.*

Finally, the prospect of a liver transplant for Pastor is beyond exciting. Again, much to be sorted out, but we know our Lord is able. *God, give us a miracle.*

Finally, a word of encouragement and challenge. No doubt you are filled with emotion as you read these letters. We are still processing these emotions as well. Now is a time for us to come together as a family.

- If you feel discouraged, reach out to someone and share.
- If you feel worried or confused, please reach out to one of your Elders or Deacons for support and honest answers.
- If you feel confident that God is going to continue to bless this community in new and exciting ways, please reach out to someone else in the congregation and check on them.

We love you and look forward to locking arms and stepping forward together in faith.

*The Deacons, Elders, and Pastor Relations Committee of First Baptist*

George Fresolone — elder, moderator, PRC

Betty Gordon — elder, PRC

Chris Wells — elder

Kathy Allaband — deacon

Dave Freeman — deacon

Cora Goldberg — deacon, PRC

Kent Reasons — deacon, PRC

Ken Smith — deacon

Linda Smith — deacon

Nick Everhart — PRC