

Mission Study Report Approved by Session and Presbytery Call Commission

March 16, 2021

Dear Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

Our journey as the Mission Study Team started a few short months ago. For First Presbyterian Church (FPC), 2020 was a very challenging year. On February 18, 2020, Session accepted Rev. Dr. Wain Wesberry's request to dissolve his pastoral relationship with our church. In March, the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic forced us to suspend in-person services and continues to impact FPC into early 2021.

Session commissioned the formation of a Mission Study Team in October, 2020. Our Mission Study Team (MST) set out to facilitate this process of reflection and conversation, beginning with our first meeting on November 5. Our theme "Begin with the End in Mind" allowed us to remain focused as we learned to be **good listeners** within the Team and the congregation. This Team of 8 has been outstanding in every way; in their collaboration, reflection, sharing and listening to each other, and exceeding my expectations. We reached a level of trust that transformed our work product.

The **Mission Study Report** represents a detailed profile of our church that will enable the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to begin their work. We hope that this Report will guide both Session and the Congregation to build on the many gifts and talents across First Presbyterian, as we look to a new decade of ministry. We encourage you to take the time to read and reflect upon the richness of our findings in both the Report and the appendices.

We would like to thank Rev. Dr. Karl Kling for his effective collaboration and encouragement throughout the process. Also, we extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Marcus Yew for the gifts of his artistry and imagination.

We hope this **Mission Study Report** will challenge and inspire you to be a part of God's plan for First Presbyterian Church, Fernandina Beach. With God's great love and grace, may our fears be turned into love, grief reshaped into new life, and our prayers transformed into deeds that forever glorify God.

How do I gain access to the Report?

1. The Mission Study Team will host an **Open House, March 25, 7pm – 8pm**. Join us via Zoom as we walk you through the Report and appendices. Specific instructions will be sent beforehand.
2. You can now directly access the Mission Study Summary Report and its appendices on the **FPC Website**. You will also be able to pick up a hard copy of the Summary Report at the Church Office in the coming days, between March and April.

With joy and our blessings,

Dennis Engers, Chair

On behalf of the Mission Study Team: Marissa Chenoweth, Rich Lang, Robin Lashley, Shirley Owens, Marilyn Showalter, Donna Smith and Mike Watkins

