

FAQ's

Pastor Brian's call as Senior Pastor at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren

- 1) WHY IS PASTOR BRIAN TRANSITIONING TO EPHRATA?
 - a. Pastor Brian has received a call by God to be the next Senior Pastor at the Ephrata Church of the Brethren in Pennsylvania. Pastor Brian has been in a prayerful discernment process over the last few years, seeking God's will and direction in his life. God's call is one that has invited him to faithfulness and obedience and as such, Pastor Brian has felt this pull of God's spirit to serve the congregation in Ephrata. Recognizing this is a call from God, the Leadership Team has confirmed this as God's leading in Pastor Brian's life and ministry. We believe this new calling is one that fits Pastor Brian's gifts and development as a preacher, shepherd, and leader.

- 2) WHEN WILL PASTOR BRIAN'S TIME OF SERVICE AT FCOB BE COMPLETED?
 - a. His final Sunday at FCOB will be October 30, 2016. Brian will work up to that date and provide his teams, supervisees, and church leadership with the needed information to cover all the details of his ministry here at FCOB.

- 3) WILL FCOB BE HIRING A NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR TO FILL PASTOR BRIAN'S POSITION?
 - a. There will not be a new hiring for an associate pastor until the role of the next Senior Pastor has been filled.

- 4) WHAT WILL WE DO AS A CHURCH TO FILL THE NEEDS AND THE GAPS IN OUR STAFF AND MINISTRY WITH PASTOR BRIAN'S TRANSITION?
 - a. In addition to the work Pastor Brian has already done (i.e. prepping staff, lay leader training, and structures) in making sure the future ministry of his service here is taken care of, the Leadership Team has asked Pastor Gene and Paul Derstine to propose a strategy for staffing to fill the gaps and meet the needs that Pastor Brian's transition will create.

- 5) HOW CAN WE EXPRESS OUR FEELINGS AND THOUGHTS TO HIM AND WHEN WILL THE FAREWELL EVENT OCCUR TO SAY GOOD BYE?
 - a. The Leadership Team is working with Pastor Brian's staff and close members of his team to arrange and coordinate these events. You will know as soon as the details are more formalized.

- 6) WHERE CAN I GO IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DECISION or the next steps for FCOB?
 - a. If you are curious about Pastor Brian's call, we encourage you to go directly to him (brian.messler@fcob.net). If you have questions about next steps, you may talk to anyone on the LT, Pastor Gene (gene.heacock@fcob.net), or Paul Derstine (paul.derstine@fcob.net).