

**Frequently Asked Questions
Asked Of Pastor Paul, Related To His Transition**

- 1. I was not aware of your transition. How can I “catch up” and receive additional information?**

That’s easy. Just go to www.fcob.net. And access the option: transition updates, on the home page. The original transition letters, released in August 2015 can be found there, along with other foundational documents, including an FAQ sheet related to the transition, overall.

- 2. In a “nut-shell,” why are you leaving?**

As I stated in my “official” transition letter released last August, I am retiring from full-time pastoral ministry after 20 years of service to FCOB, and 40 years of set-apart ministry. I sense God calling me to “till other fields of ministry” – and lay fallow (rest), the field of pastoral ministry.

- 3. What are your future plans?**

For the immediate future I plan to research and write, in the context of a theological seminary. For July and August, I will utilize the resources of Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Beginning in September, I plan to research and write in the context of Princeton Theological Seminary, where I have been appointed a Visiting Scholar. When in Princeton I plan to commute home most weekends to be with Robin, Sarah (our daughter) and other family and friends in Frederick.

- 4. So you are not moving?**

No. Robin is continuing as Director of Resident Life at Buckingham’s Choice, Adamstown, MD -- where her mother continues to reside. And Sarah (our daughter) and her husband David continue to reside in the Frederick area. And so our “roots” are here – thus there’s every reason to stay “in familiar territory.”

- 5. Will you be returning to FCOB as a “regular member”?**

Our denomination has an established separation protocol, which FCOB leaders have embraced, as noted in our Transition Team’s FAQs released last November (see Transition Update at www.fcob.net). In sum that document states: “there are congregational by-laws that require an outgoing pastor to not be involved in the church for at least 6 months after their departure. After this time, a decision will be made in consultation with Paul as to the readiness of FCOB for Robin and

him to re-engage.” Both Robin and I feel strongly that this protocol must be honored.

6. How are you doing, as you approach your last Sunday with us?

God is strengthening me. Transitions are difficult for me and this transition has been especially difficult given my length of time at FCOB and the uncharted territory of semi-retirement. Few persons realize that the experience of leaving a congregation for a pastor is akin to experiencing a death. Thus, since announcing my transition last August (and even before) I have been moving through the five “traditional” stages of death and dying: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. I praise God, that God is now leading me through the acceptance stage of this process – which frees me to readily support the next season for both my own life – and the life of FCOB.

7. How can I/we support you and Robin as you transition?

You can do this in at least three ways: 1) Intentionally focus on Jesus as the leader of the church and no other entity, including any pastor; 2) Fully embrace Gene Heacock as Gene comes to be our Intentional Interim Senior Pastor. Pray for Pastor Gene daily; 3) Actively pray for us daily, as we enter a new chapter of our life and ministry.

8. How can I/we support FCOB as we transition?

You can do this in at least five ways: 1) Intentionally focus on Jesus as the leader of the church and no other entity, including any pastor; 2) Fully embrace Gene Heacock as Gene comes to be our Intentional Interim Senior Pastor. Pray for Pastor Gene daily; 3) Don't neglect the assembly of the saints – attending worship and g.groups, serving – on a regular, preferably, weekly pattern; 4) Step up your financial giving to honor God – giving more, not less during this transitional period; 5) Continue to embrace the vision of our transition team: that “a new day is dawning” – as we claim the truth of scripture – “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11)