



The Hamilton Beacon

June 29, 2020

GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES

Almost without knowing it was happening, the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church adjourned on Saturday, June 27th.

The Assembly - to be in Baltimore - was transformed into a virtual meeting as a result of the Coronavirus. And the event, always loaded with business, committee meetings, meals of all kinds and receptions galore, was pared down to only the most necessary.

In an email I received, one person said, "Ugh, I don't know about the rest of you but this week has been so weird." I who have been known to consume many General Assemblies found that sporadic watching was more than enough.

The enclosed newsheet, published by Presbyterian Outlook, is for information. Here is the quite nice symbol of our new Co-Moderators, Elona Street-Stewart and Gregory Bentley.



HAMILTON RECEIVES A GRANT

Baltimore Presbytery offers grants to congregations struggling with large, expensive and critical building problems, "urgent church property needs" is the key phrase.

This certainly describes our leaking Sanctuary. The problem is in the valley where the Sanctuary roof intersects with the Tower. As some know, the water pours into the building and paint is peeling off the Sanctuary wall.

With profound thanksgiving, we have received a \$5,000 grant to assist in repair. This is maximum amount of disbursement per individual church in a calendar year. The repair will cost many more dollars, but the grant is a great assist. Our thanks to the Trustees of Baltimore Presbytery for this support!

NEGOTIATIONS WITH OUR TENANT

We have been working with our Manse tenants, Daniel and Margaret Clack, to provide temporary rent relief for three months. The Clacks have been excellent tenants over their seven years in the Manse, never missing a payment. We want to honor their responsibility.

THE COMMUNITY PLAY SCHOOL LEAVES

June 30th marks the end of our lease contract with this group. They leave their space in very poor condition. We have much to do to restore the second floor of Westminster Hall. The Session/Trustees are reviewing options, but certainly a large outside dumpster will need to be filled. Then cleaning, then paint. We've written a grant to help with some of these expenses. And we will need your help!

This will be an "all Hands on Deck" kind of thing!



WHEN Will We MEET for WORSHIP?

This is a tough question. Session/Trustees will be exploring it ... always with your health and well-being in mind. At this writing, Maryland is seeing some moderation while the virus rages in other states. Experts ask, "Are we still in the first wave or is the second wave coming?" Will it rage again in our state? As was written last week:

"... this virus is inscrutable. It pops up, it disappears, it reappears, some people are symptomatic, some asymptomatic, some seem to have natural immunities to it that we don't understand, and once it infects people it hits in radically different ways: you never know if you're going to get the mild or the extra-strength version."

We will keep you posted!