



Be a bridge for Christ and a beacon of His love

August 18, 2021

Dear Friend,

It is with great joy that I let you know our Session has called for a congregational meeting to take place on Sunday, August 29th at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to extend a call to the Reverend Becca Bateman as our Associate Pastor for Education and Family Ministries and to approve her Terms of Call as shown on the back of this letter. Both steps will be contingent upon her being received as a minister member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, something that is scheduled to occur in early September.

We come to this moment due to the leading of and responsiveness to the Holy Spirit by Becca and our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee. The APNC, under the strong leadership of Matt Rizk, received applications from across the country, conducted online interviews, checked numerous references, and then held all-day gatherings with finalists in July. After all of those efforts, candid questions and reflections by each committee member, and prayer all along the way, they unanimously decided that Becca Bateman should be our next AP. Providentially, she felt the same and thus we come to this point.

Included with this letter is a brochure that tells you a bit about her and why our APNC believes she is the person God has prepared for service at DPC. There will be a gathering on Saturday, August 28 at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary when you can meet Becca and her family, hear more about her gifts, and ask questions. You can join us for that event via Livestream as well. Keep watch for an email sent in the coming days that will include the Livestream link or visit bit.ly/DPCMeetAndGreet and click play on the video at 9:30 a.m. that morning. If you are unable to attend but have a question you would like asked during the event, you can send it to dpc@dtownpc.org with the subject line "Meet and Greet" and we will do our best to fit it into the gathering. The next day, she will preach during the worship service and then leave the Sanctuary for the congregational meeting beginning at 10:30 a.m., where Matt will share more details of the search and formally move that a call be extended to Becca. There will be a time for questions and then a vote by ballot. For those of you who cannot be physically present, you can participate and vote via Zoom, direct link: bit.ly/DPCMeeting, Meeting ID: 848 2645 6130, Passcode: 281714. Child care will be offered at both weekend events.

I am thrilled by the decision of our APNC, the opportunity to introduce Becca to all of you and, assuming a positive vote, welcoming her as a colleague in ministry at DPC. I look forward to sharing in that time with you as together we discern all that God has in mind for us as a body of faith on that morning and in the years to come.

Faithfully yours,

John M. Willingham, Pastor