

Report on Parents' Meetings  
June 15, 2022

There were three scheduled meetings with a targeted audience of HPC parents to discuss issues related to their concerns about Highland since the departure of Rev. Harris. This overview was drawn from my follow-up conversations with Michael Harper, Ronda Hibdon and Joe Phelps.

The meetings were held on May 13, 17 and 22. The first meeting had one parent in attendance; the second had 2 (with one parent returning); the third had 17 parents (with that same parent attending again). Joe Phelps facilitated the discussions. Michael and Rhonda attended each meeting.

Joe indicated that the final group was the most constructive and had the best positive atmosphere of any of the groups he has been a part of since December 2021. Michael and Rhonda both indicated that the third meeting was a positive experience overall.

Among the things reported to me included:

- It was positive for participants to name their pain and to have that heard by someone else.
- Those participating came with angst and frustration about what had transpired and indicated that they perceive the "other side" as not being open or receptive to hearing about their pain.
- They felt blindsided by the resignation; it may have been time for her to go, but it wasn't handled right.
- Concerned about the church being "siloes" (divided into constituents' groups).
- Their issues with the church run deeper than Rev. Harris losing her job.
- At the same time, they were more ready to have conversation and that they were open to other perspectives views from others at HPC.
- Some anger expressed that the issues surrounding Rev. Harris had not been dealt with prior to the transition period.
- The continuing presence of the incumbent Transitional Pastor was a detriment to many in the group, and represents what they struggle with or don't like about the church.

The Personnel Committee authorized an honorarium of \$750 to Joe Phelps

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