

It is time to come home...to College Hill Presbyterian Church.

I am so very excited to share our **new Strategic Plan** with all of you.

But first! We are Presbyterians. So process matters. Let me tell you exactly how we arrived at this moment.

Back in the spring, over the course of three weeks (from April 24-May 11), fifty-five members and friends of this church participated in one of six house meetings. Participants ranged in age from adolescents to nonagenarians, and in tenure of membership from just a few months to over seventy years. We shared the things we love about this church and did some dreaming about its next chapter.

A verbatim transcript of every response was subsequently shared with the Session (governing board) of the church at its May meeting. Members of Session took time to read and digest before coming together in July for a planning retreat. That retreat produced the first draft of a Strategic Plan which was subsequently refined and finally adopted in September.

You can read it in its [entirety right here](#).

I hope you will consider it carefully and share your feedback with me or with other members of Session. We want to hear from you!

What is the plan all about?

In a word: Home.

After listening to all of you and to our leaders, I believe that God is building a home for us here at College Hill Presbyterian Church -a place where ALL can receive welcome, a place where we take care of each other, a palace where we nurture our children in the faith, a place where we come together to pursue the dignity and well-being of our neighbor.

By God's grace, we are building a home. The House Meetings helped to remind all of us about the things that are working well at College Hill Presbyterian Church: Our commitment to welcome, our excellent worship, our high-quality music and thriving Faith Formation programs.

The House Meeting feedback also helped us identify work we could do to strengthen the home we have together. Think of the new Strategic Plan as a roadmap for home improvement, committing us to:

- Making better and more effective use of our building.
- Engaging in a more intentional effort to become aware of and address the needs of our members and friends.
- Inviting our people into more hands-on mission opportunities in our community.
- Forging a closer partnership with the Nursery School.
- Creating a new opportunity for our people to come together in prayer.

I know that I am biased, but I think it is a pretty good plan! I am eager to get to work.

But I cannot do this alone.

I want to ask you to do three very specific things:

First, please read and digest the plan. If you have questions or feedback, reach out to me or another member of Session. Your voice matters and we want to hear from you!

Second, please pray. We have a vision of the church we could be but we will not get there apart from the prayers of God's people.

Third, please consider the part that you could play. If you find any of this compelling –if you feel called to help us build a home here–please ponder how God might make use of your time, talent and treasure to bring this vision to life.

By the grace of God, we are building a home here together. But it just won't be the same without you.

Come home...to College Hill Presbyterian Church!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Matt