

# A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

February 1, 2018

My dear Friends:

We are very excited for our missions conference this week, “Good News for a New Memphis.” I think our hearts and minds will be stirred, both by God’s Word applied in Sunday morning worship and Sunday school, and also by the various accounts from those who are on the frontlines of doing multi-ethnic church planting in our denomination. My prayer is that, as we go through the week together, God will work to sow seeds in our hearts that will bear fruit—not only for our congregation or our children, but for our city, which so desperately needs the Gospel of Jesus.

I do need to let you know about a development we have had with our security staffing. Last Monday, January 22, the session voted to upgrade our security team by only employing off-duty active police officers who have met all of the requirements for active police service and who are current on all training and testing for such. As part of that action, the session also agreed to hire Justin Lewis, currently an officer with the Collierville Police Department, to serve as our director of security. Justin will report directly to Paul Halford, our director of operations.

As a result of this decision only to employ off-duty active police officers, we made the determination that the services of our present security staff no longer were in line with this new standard and thus no longer required. Under Justin’s leadership and Paul’s oversight, we have hired a number of new security personnel, all of whom meet the session’s standard. They will be marked out with distinctive IPC security clothing and will be engaged in providing security for our facility and parking areas going forward. As you meet these men and women, please say hello to them and make them feel welcome here. All of them are current police professionals who are doing this work part-time in addition to their full-time work for various area police and sheriff departments.

I wish we lived in a world where we did not even need security personnel at a church. But as the events this past year at Sutherland Springs, Texas, demonstrated, those who are embittered and set on violence tend to find victims in places where there are no defenders. I think it’s another reason why our missions conference is so important. The only hope for our world—for an end to violence, for justice and mercy, for economic equity—actually starts with faith alone in Jesus alone, to hear him say, “Your sins are forgiven,” and to enlist as his disciple under his royal rule. May God stir our hearts to take the Gospel to the nations right here in our city for his glory!

In the grip of God’s grace,



Rev. Sean Michael Lucas, PhD  
Senior Pastor  
Independent Presbyterian Church  
Memphis, TN