

# A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

August 29, 2019

My dear Friends:

I am so grateful this morning for the leadership of Jeremy Jones, especially, and those who have worked beside him on our Christian Life Conference this month. As we have considered “Common Grace for the Common Good,” I hope you have developed a greater appreciation for God’s general grace that pervades his world as his Spirit is at work in a range of ways, bringing this world to flourishing through the gifts God gives. As we know the truest things—about God, ourselves, his world, our destinies—we can go into a variety of spheres and work with God with creativity and imagination as witnesses to what he is doing. And as we heard last night, as the church gathered and scattered, that creativity will lead us to love mercy and seek justice for the least of these among us.

Our Grace Groups curriculum for the fall will rehearse many of those themes for us. Parker Tenent and Jeremy Jones have found an excellent curriculum called “ReFrame,” which utilizes much of what we heard from Steven Garber and Luke Bobo. As we are reminded of things we have heard this month and as we have an opportunity to reflect and discuss, our prayer is that these truths will take root in our hearts and shape the way we view the world and live in it. I trust that you will take advantage of our Grace Groups, which start this Wednesday, September 4, along with Blast!, which is our children’s program for the school year. For those who are already in a small group and not a Grace Group, we will also have a large group study, “New Testament Survey,” that starts Wednesday.

One more follow-up from last night: we had a wonderful opportunity to celebrate several of our staff members who have served our congregation for many years. It was a joy to recognize Marion Dalton (5 years), Kathy Leggett (10 years), Kerrie O’Brien (20 years), Roy Andrews (25 years), and Charles Mosely (30 years). I did want to acknowledge to you that I made a slight mistake last night; we were recognizing consecutive years of service and so honored Keith Ellis, who serves with our custodial staff, for 25 years of service. But actually, this is Keith’s second “tour of duty” with us at IPC; in total, Keith has served 35 years at IPC, caring well for you, this ministry, and our facilities. By failing to note this, I hurt Keith and his family and want to apologize publicly for doing so. We are extremely grateful for Keith’s contribution to our common life and ministry together and desire that to be known above all else.

Our common life is especially expressed through Word and Sacrament and so I am very much looking forward to pulpit and table this coming Sunday, which is a communion Sunday. As we work and rest over this Labor Day weekend, may we find our great rest and joy in the God who has come to us in Jesus Christ.

In the grip of God’s grace,

