

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

June 3, 2018

My dear Friends:

We don't usually send out a pastor's letter on Sunday, but I wanted to make sure that everyone in our congregation heard the exciting news we announced this morning during our worship services. **The session voted to have a congregational meeting next Sunday, June 10, 2018, after the 11:00 a.m. service for the purpose of calling Rev. Robert Browning as an associate pastor at Independent Presbyterian Church.**

If Robert is called to IPC, he would serve as executive pastor, overseeing the general operations side of our ministry, including business administration and human resources; IT/AV; operations (property management/custodial/security); kitchen/ hospitality; communications; and bookstore. He will assist Sean on special projects that advance particular ministry priorities, such as church planting, theological education, and mercy and justice. Our hope is that in time Robert will also have pastoral responsibilities in one of our communities as well. You can find out more about Robert as well as his family on the attached handout that was distributed to the congregation this morning.

But that wasn't the only announcement we made. We also announced that **the session voted to approve Mr. Zach Hood as our new director of college ministry, effective June 1, 2018.** Many of you already know Zach from his service this past year in our student ministry, but we are thrilled he is taking on this new responsibility. Zach is a graduate from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. This is his second stint of service at IPC—he was a student ministry intern while in college and then came back to serve once again in student ministry. He and his wife, Olivia, who will be starting with Memphis Teacher Residency in the fall, are looking forward to serving at IPC as he works toward completing his seminary training through RTS Memphis.

If you have any questions, I'm happy to answer them, but I trust that you will rejoice with me over God's provision for us. I've been personally praying for both of these positions for over a year now. God in his perfect timing has brought us two men who will assist us in furthering God's mission of forming new people for a new Memphis. I know you will be eager to welcome them to their new responsibilities as you have opportunity.

In the grip of God's grace,



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



The session has called for a congregational meeting on June 10, 2018, after the 11:00 a.m. service for the purpose of calling Rev. Robert Browning as an associate pastor at Independent Presbyterian Church.

Robert is coming to IPC to become our new executive pastor. As such, he will oversee the general operations side of our ministry, including business administration and human resources; IT/AV; operations (property management/custodial/security); kitchen/hospitality; communications; and bookstore. He will assist Sean on special projects that advance particular ministry priorities, such as church planting, theological education, and mercy and justice. Our hope is that in time Robert will also have pastoral responsibilities in one of our communities as well. Should the congregation vote to call Robert, he would begin at IPC on September 1, 2018.

Presently, Robert serves as senior pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church (PCA), Olive Branch, Mississippi. He is married to Natalie and the Brownings have two children, Ric (15) and Margaret Ann (12; turns 13 in August). Robert holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Rhodes College, Memphis, Tennessee, and a Master of Divinity degree from Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte, North Carolina.

He previously served as a youth director at Second Presbyterian Church (EPC) in Memphis, Tennessee; stated supply pastor of Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (ARP) in Charlotte, North Carolina; and campus minister at the University of Memphis with Reformed University Fellowship. He has also served as the stated clerk of Covenant Presbytery since 2009, worked on a number of General Assembly committees, helped to start Restoration Now in Desoto County, and serves on the board of Bent Tree Ministries.