

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

August 19, 2021

My dear Friends:

One of the things that I've always appreciated about our denomination is its motto. Articulated by the first moderator of the General Assembly, Ruling Elder W. Jack Williamson, the PCA pledged itself to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission. At our best over nearly fifty years, that's what the PCA has embodied: a dogged commitment to inspired and inerrant Word of God, evidenced especially in expository biblical preaching; a love for and proclamation of the Reformed faith as represented in the Westminster Standards, the greatest summary of biblical truth that history has seen; and a passion for national and international evangelism, which often requires deed ministry to serve as a platform for Word ministry.

Those three things also represent IPC. Since 1965, since the first hardy souls met to form our church, we've been at our best when we have emphasized those three things together. This is our direction—to be faithful to the inerrant Word of God; to be true to the Reformed faith; and to be obedient to the Great Commission, which inevitably includes the Great Commandments as well.

The past two years, especially, have been extremely difficult for us all. But I wanted to take this opportunity to remind us about us. Because this is us—this is me and this is you. Since you called me here nearly five years ago, I generally have preached and taught for us four to six times a week—and I have preached and taught the Bible: not critical race theory, not gender studies, not politics left or right. I have preached and taught the Bible. I led a two semester Wednesday night study on the Westminster Standards and have taught our officers training every year, which is an exposition of those standards. I have taught the fullest of the Reformed faith summarized under the Lordship of Christ; we even did an entire evening series on “Every Square Inch” (where I gave a talk that clearly explained my position on human sexuality—a talk that you can find on our YouTube channel). I believe in Presbyterian polity and have sought to ensure that we are fully Presbyterian in what we do and how we do it. And I have led people to Christ and have encouraged you in doing the same—supporting a range of church planting, short-term missions, and campus ministry.

This is me—but, my dear friends, this is you as well. This is who you are: you are a people that desires to be faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission. My deep prayer is that this will be true of IPC until Jesus returns again. But I wanted to take this opportunity today to remind us all, from your own pastor's heart, that this is what unites us. This is what we are at our best—what links us from Leonard Van Horn to John Sartelle to Sean Lucas, all the ruling elders, deacons, Sunday school teachers, and WOC leaders through our history. It is good history, and IPC has a beautiful future ahead—if we keep these main things, the main thing. This is our direction; it hasn't changed; let's go forward down this good road. It is my privilege to serve and care for you on this journey.

In the grip of God's grace,

