



**BLAWENBURG
REFORMED CHURCH**

In Service to the Risen Christ since 1832

January 4, 2024

Dear Friends,

We are writing to ask you to participate in considering the future of our church. The Vision Team, which was formed in the fall of 2023, will be hosting events in January during which we will prayerfully discuss our church's future. The more of us who participate in these events the better. We are asking for an hour or two of your time. We hope you will take part.

As you may recall from our congregational meeting this fall, we have a serious financial situation. We are relying on an endowment fund to balance our budget, and with the current size of our deficit, we will deplete that endowment in an estimated three years' time. We know that we must take action to make our finances more sustainable.

The Vision Team was formed to help us determine what is the faithful course forward for our church. We have been meeting to prayerfully discuss the future, and we want to include you in the discussion as well. We don't know where the Holy Spirit is leading us, and we need your help figuring out what our next steps should be.

We will offer several opportunities for you to contribute ideas to the Vision Team. We will hold two listening sessions where you can share your thoughts about our future in person. These will be on Thursday, January 18, at 7:00pm in Cook Hall and Sunday, January 21, after coffee hour at 11:30am. In addition, we will give you the opportunity to share your thoughts in writing if you are unable to make it to an in-person event.

We have included questions in this mailing that you might find useful in formulating your thoughts. We encourage you to complete the form and bring it to the discussion. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you can return it to the church office or place it in the box on the table at the foot of the stairs in fellowship hall. Either way the Vision Team wants to hear what you are thinking.

It would be very helpful to know if you plan to attend one of the meetings. Please RSVP to Barb Reid in the office. office@blawenburgchurch.org or 609.466.1832.

Although the pathway to the future isn't clear, we trust that working together we can find a faithful path forward. We look forward to working with you so we can continue to be a beacon in our community and as we consider what our future will be in service to Christ Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

The Vision Team

Pastor Jeff, Dave Cochran, Elmi Hill, Barb Reid, Mark Smith, Alan Taback