

The Session of Takoma Park Presbyterian Church has engaged the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (LMPC) to lead TPPC through a process of reconciliation. On Sunday, November 5th, we ask the congregation to stay after worship to meet one of the Lombard consultants for a meeting when the reconciliation process will be introduced. All in attendance will have an opportunity to fill out a questionnaire to express concerns and share their assessment of the conflict within the congregation.

The consultant will also meet with the session that day. The LMPC will then determine if Takoma Park is a good candidate for their form of reconciliation process.

On behalf of the session, I request that everyone involved with Takoma Park Presbyterian Church make your best effort to be present on November 5th for worship, and for the meeting afterward. This is an appeal to each and every one of you because your opinions matter. To those of you who continue to be in church on a regular basis, it is important that you participate if you possibly can; and for those of you who have felt hurt and estrangement, your perceptions and opinions are just as important to us.

The themes of forgiveness, healing, and reconciliation are at the heart of Christianity. They are also some of the most difficult and challenging tasks to which Jesus calls us as his disciples. I hope that we can enter into a process where we can be both respectful and truthful with one another, and where we can create safe space to speak of deep matters.

Next week I will follow up this message with another that will provide more logistical information including the length of the meeting. I can report now that there will be extra food at the coffee hour after worship intended to sustain people through the meeting.