



## Pastor Hurley Announces His Retirement

On Sunday, August 12, it was reported that Pastor Hurley would be retiring after 30 years of ordained ministry and 18 years at Graystone. The following letter was received by the Session on August 11<sup>th</sup> and reported the next day at an information meeting between services and announced at the second service. Following is the letter:

August 11, 2018

Dear Graystone Ruling Elders,

For some time Beth and I have been praying about and discussing our season of life and the future. Upon extended reflection we have concluded that God is leading us into the season of retirement. Therefore, I am writing to inform you of my plan to retire as Pastor of Graystone as of October 31, 2018. I have already informed the appropriate committee of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies of my decision.

I am grateful for the 18 wonderful years my family and I have enjoyed at Graystone. It has been my great joy and honor to serve as Graystone's Pastor. During my tenure Graystone has experienced major defining moments and weathered storms that assailed her faith and resolve. In each instance the congregation has stood strong and joyfully kept the faith. It has been my privilege to walk alongside the amazing people of this congregation. I am humbled and glad to have been part of this journey in the 210 year history of Graystone's witness for Christ to Indiana and the world.

Now it is time to turn the page. I am excited about Graystone's future. We have great leadership, a gospel-centered and supportive denomination, two phenomenal young Pastors, a strong vision for the future, a new children's facility, and lots of enthusiasm for Christ and His mission. Most importantly we have a faithful God, to whom this Church belongs.

To Him alone goes all glory, laud, and honor.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Rev. Richard E. Hurley  
Pastor; Graystone Evangelical Presbyterian Church

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As reported on Sunday, a retirement celebration will be held on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Hurley's final sermon will be that morning and a Retirement Celebration is planned for that evening. Save the date.

Please pray for Rick and Beth as they move into this new season of life. This has been the culmination of much prayer and reflection. Pray also for the Session, our Pastors, and staff as they work with our Presbytery to lead us through this time of transition.

Sincerely,

Andrew Arblaster  
Clerk of Session

# FAQs

## **Will Rick and Beth relocate?**

Their plan is to stay in Indiana. They love it here and this is their home. However, their involvement in the life of Graystone will be limited to allow appropriate time and space for the transitional leadership to do their work.

## **What are the next steps?**

Fortunately, retirement and transitions are not new in the Church. Our Presbytery has developed a helpful transitional model that helps congregations go through this process. This includes training "Transitional Pastors" with skills that are unique to times of changing leadership. Members of the "*Church Development Committee*" and the "*Ministerial Committee*" of the Presbytery of the Alleghenies will walk with the Session to advise them on how to best move forward. It is important to know that your Session is in control of the process and will take full advantage of the best wisdom available.

Part of the transition process will most likely involve hiring a Transitional Pastor. This will not take place immediately upon Pastor Hurley's departure on October 31. Pastors Ryan and Joe will lead the congregation through the Advent and Christmas Season. Sometime in the new year the Session will interview and identify a candidate to fill the position of Transitional Pastor. (Note: the Session is in charge of **hiring** a Transitional Pastor. A Transitional Pastor is **not** assigned to us.)

At the right time, a search committee will be formed to locate the person that God is already preparing to be the next Pastor at Graystone. A transition period usually lasts 18 to 24 months. Please pray for the Session and how you can be supportive in this time of transition.

## **Can Ryan and Joe be considered for the role of Pastor?**

Our Book of Order states that "ordinarily, an Associate Pastor is not eligible to succeed the Pastor. However, should a search committee desire to consider an Associate Pastor, approval by a three-fourths vote of Session and three-fourths vote of the Ministerial Committee shall be required for the Search Committee to proceed." G. 10-4e.

(Please note: Ryan is an "Associate" Pastor and Joe is currently an "Assistant" Pastor. What this means practically is that as an "Assistant" Joe is not eligible to be considered. We hired Joe in that capacity with the intent of moving him into "Associate" status. That process is being explored. More on this as it develops.)

## **Will Pastor Hurley be available for Weddings and Funerals?**

The Transitional Pastoral Leadership will take the lead on all requests.

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### **How will this affect the staff and ongoing ministry of Graystone?**

We have two wonderful Pastors and an amazing staff who are committed to making the transition period the best it can be. In addition we have a strong Session and Deaconate that will continue to serve the mission of Graystone. Our committees will also continue to function in their roles; Sunday morning classes for children through adults are under great leadership; the Growth Path will be functioning; and Life Groups will be recruiting members and leaders. In other words, lots will remain the same.

However, with Pastor Hurley's departure Ryan and Joe and the staff will have additional responsibilities. Please be patient with them and graciously support them through this time. Your prayers and gracious commitment to the mission of Christ in word and deed will go a long way toward making this a successful, joyful, and fruitful time.

### **A reminder**

God's timing is always perfect. He is still working out His plan for Graystone. We are called to be faithful and to partner with Him "in season and out of season." This is His church. God's got this!

Soli Deo Gloria!