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Kenneth R. Reece, Senior Pastor

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*Greetings Saint Paul Family,*

*It is with optimistic anticipation, I greet you in the name of Savior, Jesus Christ. In January 2021, I introduced the concept of an Elder Board during our Leadership Conference. As you may remember, the focus of the conference was Biblical Eldership. I discussed the office of the elder, plurality of elders, qualifications of elders and the function of the elders.*

*I am fully aware that I was only able to establish a foundational understanding of an elder board as a means of governance. Since that time, I established an Elder Board Task Force to conduct in-depth research on this topic with the intention of providing leaders and the congregation with current research, analysis, and recommendations. The Elder Board Task Force has spent the last 15 months conducting research and church interviews. The research included biblical research along with bible scholars discussing the role of the elders in the church and the make-up of the elder board. Additionally, the task force has spent countless hours identifying churches with elders and conducting interviews. We are continuing this work and will share the results with you when it is completed.*

*Prior to this meeting, the task force met with me and Executive Pastor Lamont to share their findings. We then took that information to our Deacons and Trustees and finally to our Servant Leaders. In each of these meetings the questions, concerns and comments have led to the refinement of the report we are now sharing with you.*

*In the attached abbreviated report, you will find research on what is an elder board, the roles and responsibilities, and the qualifications of an elder. This information is provided to you in advance of the briefing to allow you time to absorb the information. You can find the comprehensive report on the church website. During the briefing, the task force will lead the discussion and answer any questions you may have.*

*I am asking that you come prepared, prayerful and with an open mind. This is a pivotal moment in the history of Saint Paul Church. This decision will be historic! Let us come together on one accord to hear the report of the task force and have a productive discussion.*

*Following our meeting, a date and time will be given for you to have the opportunity to vote anonymously. As we build on the legacy of faith, we are mindful that with building, comes change. Change is not always comfortable but necessary for the body of Christ. Necessary for Saint Paul Church. I am counting on you to champion the value of a new way of governance to better serve God's people. I look forward to seeing you Thursday, June 29, 2023, at 6:00 PM in the Sanctuary.*

*Only by Grace,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth R. Reece", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Kenneth Reece, Senior Pastor BUILDING A LEGACY