



THURSDAY, DEC. 2

Important Update on Member Forums and Congregational Meeting Plan

Dear MBC Family,

We want to start this update with great news from our church's [Bible reading](#) this week. In 2 Peter 2:9, we read, "The Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials." Every time we send updates, we are aware that as many of you open your inboxes, you are walking through all sorts of trials in your lives and families. We pray that this verse will be a reminder to you today that God Himself is with you in the middle of those trials, and He will ultimately rescue you from them.

We are reminded of this same truth as a church family as we look at trials we have walked through together, including our efforts to host a Forum this last Monday night for church members to pray together, ask questions or express concerns, and listen to and learn from one another. Unfortunately, due to an aggressive disruption of this meeting requiring the help of law enforcement, it became necessary to dismiss the meeting before it even began. This aggressive conduct continued in the church parking lot, where an individual who was involved in the earlier disruption physically opened the car door of our elder board chairman on multiple occasions while our chairman was attempting to leave. We obviously cannot tolerate such behavior, and while we work with law enforcement to address the above actions appropriately, we have concluded that for the safety and spiritual health of our church family, we are simply unable to host large Forums like this at our Tysons location during this time. Therefore, **we will no longer be hosting the Budget Forum that was scheduled for tonight (Thursday, December 2)**. Further, because the purpose of this Budget Forum was to prepare our members to vote on the budget, **we will no longer be holding our Congregational Meeting in association with our worship gatherings this Sunday, December 5**.

Instead, we will be moving our **Congregational Meeting** to an online meeting on **Thursday, December 16, at 7 pm**. On that night, you will be able to participate in the meeting that evening at mcleanbible.org/congregationalmeeting, when we will vote to affirm almost 200 new members as well as vote on our 2022 church budget through a secure online platform set up for our current members. In preparation for that meeting, we are preparing a video presentation of a budget overview for anyone to watch, which will also be available soon at mcleanbible.org/congregationalmeeting. As a reminder, you can also pick up a physical copy of the 2022 church budget at any of our locations.

In addition, we sincerely desire to meet with members about any questions you have about the budget or other matters in the church, and we as elders are scheduling smaller forums for this purpose not only between now and December 16, but also as we begin 2022. If you would like to be a part of one of these smaller forums, please feel free to notify us at questions@mcleanbible.org, and we will be glad to arrange for you to attend one of these smaller forums or to have an individual meeting with a church leader, if that is more helpful.

Whether we are walking through trials in the church or trials in our lives and families, we're especially reminded during the Christmas season that God loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son to be born, to live, to die on a cross, and to rise from the grave so that we might be rescued from the ultimate trial, death itself. So let's gather together Sunday to worship Him as we start an exciting new series called "**The Sound of Hope**." We encourage you to invite someone to come with you to our gatherings this Christmas, and to download our [Christmas Devotional](#) for you to use individually, with your family, or in your Church Group, as we celebrate the hope we have in Christ.

Love in Him,
MBC Elders