



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF HAVRE DE GRACE
551 FRANKLIN ST - HAVRE DE GRACE, MD 21078
CHURCH PHONE 410.939.3611
OFFICE@PRESBYTERIANCHURCHHDG.COMCASTBIZ.NET

Presbytery of Baltimore
c/o Rev. Mary Gaut, Stated Clerk
5400 Loch Raven Blvd. Suite 3
Baltimore, MD 21239

Dear Reverend Gaut,

The Presbyterian Church of Havre de Grace has a long and very rich history. Yet, as in many churches throughout our country, membership and attendance have experienced a steady decline. At the present time, the Presbyterian Church of Havre de Grace has 45 members on its roll with an average of 25-30 members attending Sunday worship on a regular basis. Additionally, most of the regular attendees are 60 years of age or older.

The purpose of this letter is to request an exemption on the term limit for Elders. We presently have 7 Elders serving on Session and are looking to reduce this number to 4. We are updating our by-laws and will present this to the church membership at the next Congregational Meeting. The main reason for this request is that members are not stepping forward to fill leadership positions in the church despite advertising the positions and personally inviting individuals to serve. As a result, the same few people must continue serving as Elders for the sake of maintaining a ruling body.

We understand that this request is not taken lightly. However, the Presbyterian Church of Havre de Grace church as a whole has stabilized over the last several years both spiritually and financially and we see this as the only way to continue our forward momentum by hopefully minimizing burnout among our most active members who consistently serve as Elders.

We hope that you will understand our present situation and grant this exemption.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Martin
CRE

Pat Allingham
Clerk of Session