

**ITEM C.206
FOR INFORMATION**

Small Church Residency Program (formerly For Such a Time as This)

Four and one-half years ago we launched *For Such a Time as This* as a timely and innovative program focused on spiritual, vocational, and congregational transformation. *For Such a Time as This* has paired small, underserved congregations with recent seminary graduates in two-year pastoral calls. The name *For Such a Time as This* communicated the timeliness and urgency of the program, but gave no information as to what the program is actually about. Therefore, we have renamed it the *Small Church Residency Program* with the tagline: “Growing Leaders, Growing Churches For Such a Time as This.” We hope this name change will better communicate the program’s focus.

In addition, we have developed a new strategy for engaging congregations, presbyteries, and candidates. Previously, all congregations and candidates were screened by our staff and then paired by a staff team drawn from a number of offices in the building. This meant that the window for application from congregations and candidates was once a year. We have now integrated this process into the Church Leadership Connection, so now candidates and congregations can opt into the program at any point during the year with Cindy Cushman, program director, being in conversation with all parties. This shift has just been put into place in 2014, and we now have in the pipeline 50% more congregations than have ever been part of the program in a single year, most of them from presbyteries that have never participated before.