

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For Christ in the Heart of Charlotte

February 14, 2011

Dear Friends,

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) thanks you for the trust and encouragement you demonstrated in approving the PNC nominees during the February 13th congregational meeting. The PNC is committed to serving the congregation prayerfully and diligently in the search for a new senior minister to lead First Presbyterian Church (FPC). The purpose of this letter is to share our theological foundation, while explaining the PNC's function and role in the transition following Dr. Wood's retirement after 27 years of leadership.

We are united in our excitement, passion, and commitment towards the future of our Church... *Christ's* Church in the heart of Charlotte. As we begin this work for the congregation, we recognize the importance of understanding FPC's history, our mission, and our core beliefs.

Since 1821, generations have worshipped Christ at this location. The changes within FPC's congregation, leadership, and surrounding neighborhood have been numerous through the years, all witnessed by God's steadfast and unchanging love. We are his children, freely choosing to worship and glorify him, and we recognize his sovereignty. We acknowledge Christ as the Head of the Church and the authority of Scripture. We also recognize that we exist for the Great Ends of the Church: the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of mankind; the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God; the maintenance of divine worship; the preservation of the truth; the promotion of social righteousness; and the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

With this understanding, the PNC will pursue the search for a new senior minister, prayerfully discerning God's will in this call. Our activities will include, but not be limited to the following steps:

- 1) Community Building: Mutual trust and understanding are crucial elements of the PNC's work. PNC members will form a trusting bond through scripture based devotion, prayer, and fellowship throughout the search process. Think of the PNC as a type of Christ Care small group.
- 2) Congregational Self Study: The PNC will design a plan to seek congregational input concerning FPC's vision and mission, as well as desired qualities in our new senior minister. We will actively seek viewpoints from the varying demographics within our church, and we will listen. The study findings will be summarized and reported to both the congregation and Presbytery.
- 3) Church Information Form: The PNC will prepare the Church Information Form, which is the official job posting for our senior minister position. The form describes the open position, our congregation, our mission and our ministry. Once completed, this form will be presented to Session and Presbytery for approval.

- 4) Conduct Search: The Church Information Form will be posted on the national PC (USA) website. Interested candidates will submit a Personal Information Form (a type of resume) to the PNC. The PNC will also reach out for candidates, accept recommendations from the congregation, and follow up on referrals. Through prayer and discernment, we will trust in the Holy Spirit to lead us to the candidates who God may be calling.
- 5) Review Candidates: The PNC will prayerfully review and consider each Personal Information Form received and, where appropriate, the candidates' available sermons and publications.
- 6) Interview Candidates: The PNC will select candidates to interview. As the discernment process progresses and the selection narrows, the PNC will visit candidates at their current churches and will follow up on references. In finalizing the selection process, the PNC will seek concurrence from Presbytery and will extend a call to the candidate who we believe God has called to FPC.
- 7) Nominate: The PNC will nominate a final candidate to Presbytery for approval and report its recommendation to Session and the congregation. A congregational meeting will be called to vote on the final candidate.
- 8) Installation and Celebration: We will hold an installation service for our new senior minister and celebrate, with our church family, God's call of this individual.

The PNC will undertake this work with humility and thoroughness; however, it is difficult to suggest a specific timeline with target dates. All actions throughout the process will be as transparent as possible, while respecting the necessary confidences. As we proceed, we welcome your feedback and ask for your prayers and patience.

God's hand will continue to be with the congregation throughout this transition, providing us guidance and peace. We are a blessed church, with a wonderful and committed staff, dynamic and capable associate ministers, and an experienced interim senior minister who will support and pray for us throughout this journey. Let us now continue to embrace this time of change, listen for God's guidance and direction, and praise his name!

In Christ,



Scott Angel
PNC Chair



Amy Woods Brinkley
PNC Vice Chair

Committee: Julie Caldwell, Gene Cochrane, Michael Ek, Thold Gill, Kay Valaoras