

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*For Christ in the Heart of Charlotte*

December 6, 2010

To: The Members of First Presbyterian Church

Dear Friends,

Last week the Transition Committee announced that the Reverend Roland P. Perdue, III has agreed to serve as the Interim Senior Minister of First Presbyterian Church beginning in January, 2011. This is an important next step in the transition towards the calling of the next Senior Minister. Now that the “celebration” is over and before Reverend Perdue begins, we thought it would be helpful to share some of the principles put forth by our denomination that help guide the ongoing relationship between a retiring minister and the congregation, once a pastoral relationship has ended.

Although it has been over 27 years since our church’s last transition, the retirement of Bill Wood is a normal and healthy occurrence in the life of the church and should be viewed not as an ending, but as a passage on our journey together towards Christ. We acknowledge that change can invoke a wide range of emotions on both sides and hope that clear communication up front will help eliminate potential misunderstandings down the road.

First Presbyterian Church intends to follow a practice adopted by most Presbyteries and churches, which is that a retired minister no longer serves as minister for members of the congregation in any capacity, including officiating Baptisms, Weddings, or Funerals. This policy is not intended to reflect a lack of care or concern for members of our congregation. In fact it is quite the opposite. When a minister leaves a congregation, it marks an end of the ministerial relationship, but it does not mark the end of loving and caring for one another. It is in the interest of the retiring minister, the new minister, and the congregation that the former minister distance himself from the congregation to allow for the congregation and the new minister to establish a pastoral bond. In a case such as ours where Bill Wood has served for a lengthy period of time and intends to remain in Charlotte, it is appropriate and normal for friendships to continue, but for the pastoral bond to be dissolved.

We hope that you understand the spirit of this letter and kindly request that you not reach out to Bill Wood or to any retired minister or former associate minister to discuss church related matters or to make pastoral requests. First Presbyterian Church has a tremendous history of strong leadership, and is blessed with an incredible staff that is available to assist members with their ongoing and future pastoral needs. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to speak to any member of Session or the Personnel Committee. In the meantime, we would ask that you continue to pray for our church during this season of change.

In Christ,



Scott Angel  
*Clerk of Session*

William P. Wood  
*Senior Minister*

Frederick W. Eubank, II  
*Chair of Personnel &  
Transition Committees*