

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

For Christ in the Heart of Charlotte

MINUTE FOR MISSION

PNC

July 31, 2011

Good morning. I am Thold Gill and one of seven members of the Pastor Nominating Committee. As your Pastor Nominating Committee, we want to keep you apprised of our work and to let you know of the ways you can continue to help us in our nomination process.

As a way of review, we have divided our work into three phases --- self study, candidate identification and finally candidate selection. We are now in the final month of completing the first stage, the self-study, and expect to have this work completed by the end of August. We will use the results of the self-study to complete the Church Information Form that will be the official document that formally and publicly communicates to potential ministerial candidates a detailed description of who First Presbyterian is and what we are looking for in a new senior minister.

The Church Information Form will be presented to Session for approval at the August 28th Session meeting. Once approved, we will post the Church Information Form on a nationwide list of available calls within the denomination. We will also send a letter to the congregation highlighting the self-study along with a link to the Church Information Form. Additionally, we plan on sharing with you the results of the congregational survey.

All of us want you to know how incredibly blessed our committee feels to have been engaged in the work of the self-study. You, the congregation and staff, have given all of us your time and counsel as we have sought to listen to what is on your heart. Your interest and engagement in the Listening Sessions, the high response rate to the survey (over 450 responses) and the active participation in the Summer Devotional Series have made each of you an integral part of the self study. We all believe that this has been a critical period of reflection that will allow us to share our story with confidence as we begin to engage with prospective ministers.

First Presbyterian is a fabulous church that has been blessed with many unique gifts that will be very exciting to potential new ministers. As such, we expect to receive a large number of inquires from pastors who are interested in serving First Presbyterian. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

So as we move into the next phase of our search, it will be incumbent upon us to be led by the Spirit and to add to the list of candidates by asking, seeking and knocking. As such, we will be working to assemble our own list of potential candidates who we might approach about serving First Pres.

That is where each of you comes in. We want you to send us your recommendations of ministers we should consider. Please feel free to communicate with us by letter, email, or personally so that we are aware of all the great ministers who might be called to lead this church. We have already received a number of recommendations from the congregation, so keep them coming.

We want to thank you for your prayers and know that they are felt and are making a difference. Please keep praying for us as we begin to transition out of the self-study and into the candidate identification stage. We look forward to sharing with you what we have learned early this fall. Thank you again for your continued support of our work.