

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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*For Christ in the Heart of Charlotte*

October 4, 2011

Dear friends,

As the season of the year is changing, so too is the season of work conducted by your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC.) With your great support and involvement, the internally focused congregational self-study is complete, and we are now beginning the externally focused work to identify and review candidates for a new Senior Minister for First Presbyterian Church.

The PNC's congregational self-study, which has taken place over the last 5 months, involved extensive engagement with staff, ministers, officers, the Transition Committee, and the congregation. The congregation's involvement included a congregational survey, more than 15 small group listening sessions, many one on one discussions, summer devotionals, and more. We thank God for the tremendous support of this congregation in these efforts. Your responses, reflections, perspectives, dreams and prayers have all shaped the direction of the search as we move forward.

Response to the congregational survey was remarkable with nearly 500 responses. We have updated the Transition/PNC section of the church website to include the raw data results of the survey. <http://www.firstpres-charlotte.org/transition.php> We hope you will review these results as they will be an invaluable resource to our lay leaders and staff as we consider how God is calling us to serve. It is important to consider that the responses largely represent our most active members and do not necessarily inform us as to the voices of our less active members, potential members, or our neighbors.

The primary output of this congregational self-study is the Church Information Form (CIF) <https://clc.pcusa.org> and click "opportunity search" and search First Presbyterian Church. The CIF is not just a job posting. It is an articulation of who we are, our vision of this church, and the qualities we are seeking in a Senior Minister. The CIF was approved by our Session on August 28 and has been posted to the PC(USA) website since early September, making our search now officially underway.

The qualifications and characteristics of a Senior Minister enumerated in the CIF include:

- 1) Is a Christian who is rooted in scripture and who believes in the tenets of the faith as articulated in the creeds and confessions in the *Book of Confessions of the PC(USA)*
- 2) Is a person of prayer
- 3) Leads with a prophetic voice that desires to exalt Christ, his name, and his word above all things
- 4) Preaches the Word of God faithfully and boldly, with authority and confidence based on deep biblical and theological knowledge
- 5) Has an open and collaborative communication style that encourages a diverse membership to engage in dialogue on difficult issues
- 6) Is engaging, approachable and energetic, and leads with vision, a shepherd's heart and a sense of humor
- 7) Has experience with and a love for traditional worship while being willing to explore and incorporate other worship styles as an extension of the church's ministry, in the spirit of the Reformed tradition


The PNC is now underway with this next external phase of our work. We have begun to identify potential candidates through referrals from the congregation and other sources. This phase of our work requires a high level of confidentiality, and we sincerely appreciate your understanding as our future communications reflect that need.

In closing, we are grateful for your support and ask for your continued prayers for our church, our ministers, our staff, our committee, and our future Senior Minister. Please contact us individually or as a group at [pnc@firstpres-charlotte.org](mailto:pnc@firstpres-charlotte.org) with any questions or comments.

In Christ,



Scott Angel  
Chair



Amy Woods Brinkley  
Vice Chair

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