

Hello, FPC Members and Friends

The Pastor Nominating Committee wants to explain the process of securing a pastor and to bring you up to date on our work.

The Committee met three times over the past six weeks, including a training meeting with Philip Lotspeith, General Presbyterian of Transylvania Presbytery, and Mike Chamberlain, our liaison with the Pastor Transition Committee. We also met with our Session to hear the Listening Sessions Detailed Report from Darryl Baker and to have input on the salary for the new minister.

PCUSA helps match congregations with pastors. This is not to say that PCUSA tells us who our pastor will be, but rather, they provide an initial screening process that gives us an improved chance of finding a pastor who is a good fit for us.

The Church Leadership Connection (CLC) is the name of PCUSA's process to help us find a pastor. The CLC maintains a database of churches seeking new pastors and pastors seeking new churches. Churches and pastors are required to submit detailed descriptions of themselves. The CLC, through the Presbytery and our Transition liaison, will provide us with information on pastors they believe are a good fit. We will review the information provided. If we do not think the candidates are right for us, we will request the next set of names. However, if we find a strong candidate, we will obtain contact information to arrange an interview. If that interview goes well, we will consider bringing the candidate (and spouse) to Somerset to see the church and the community. If all has gone well with that step, we will extend an invitation to the candidate. The Session will then vote on the candidate's acceptance, and then the congregation will vote on his/her acceptance.

At this point, the PNC has filled out the forms related to church demographics. We have started working on the narrative questions required by the CLC. Among these are:

- What are our church's missions and their impact on the community?
- What are the qualities we seek in a minister?
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the position? How will the minister work with staff and volunteers?
- How do we determine the needs of the community and respond to them?

We hope to have all requirements for the CLC ready for Presbytery's review in February.

Presbytery has suggested that we develop a type of "sales package" for Somerset that would be linked to our CLC. We will begin work on it in January in parallel with the narrative questions.

We intend to provide regular updates to the congregation during worship and in the newsletter.

Jimmy Salmon was elected Chair of the PNC. Erin Stephens was elected the Secretary. Bill Fountain, Hannah Vaught, and Carol Wade serve on the Committee. For any questions, please feel free to contact any of us.