

## PNC report presented at the January 29, 2017 Congregational Meeting

Good afternoon from your Pastor Nominating Committee. We are excited to be with you today to present the candidate for Rumble's new pastor. It has been a very long process, and you have stuck by us all the way. We can't thank you enough for your prayers, patience, and support.

Here's a quick look back over the last 17 months: The first meeting of the PNC was in August 2015 with Charlie Landreth, Sam Marshall, and our Committee on Ministry representative Will Heyward. We started work with the Transition Team in September. A joint committee of the TT and PNC wrote Rumble's Mission Study using data collected from our church survey. The Mission Study is an informational document describing our past, present, and hopes for the future. From that document, the PNC created our Ministry Information Form, basically a lengthy job description. We posted this on the PCUSA's online job matching website and began receiving and reviewing Pastor Information Forms (PIFs) in early 2016. We received approximately 115 PIFs from the matching site, referrals, and personal applications. In the PIF review process, we not only read the multi-page PIF for each candidate, we also watched online sermons and checked social media sites trying to gather as much information as possible to make informed decisions about the candidates' fit for Rumble. We discussed each candidate in person to decide if we wanted to proceed with a video conference interview. We conducted 18 video conference interviews and 7 face-to-face interviews. All of this to say that it was a very thorough process, and your PNC worked incredibly hard to find the person God is calling to Rumble.

After months of work we are exhausted, but even more than that, we are excited about the future of Rumble. The 7 of us have not always agreed and have had difficult conversations about Rumble's future. We have laughed, cried, walked away angry, but most importantly we have come back to the table time after time to work with one another for this church. And in the end, we came together unanimously for this candidate.

We need to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude to so many who helped us during this process: Salem Presbytery especially Sam Marshall and Laurie Scott; Will Heyward, the pastor at Mt Jefferson Presbyterian Church who served as our Committee on Ministry rep; the hard working Rumble Transition Team; Maggie, who stayed with us 9 months instead of the 3 months originally planned which gave us the time we needed to do our work; Charlie Landreth for helping us begin our time of transition; Session for their confidence in us and support; the Worship Committee for filling the pulpit; the incredible staff of this church who carried us through 2 interims and the challenges of transition with grace and kindness; you, the congregation, for your prayers, words of encouragement and excitement for this moment; and I would like to personally thank the commitment and faith of this PNC. They have faithfully and prayerfully worked for this church for the best of this congregation. And we owe them a debt of gratitude.

I cannot emphasize enough how excited the 7 of us are to present Kathy Beach to you for Rumble's Solo Pastor. A few of us would like to share our personal thoughts on Kathy and her fit for this church....

*Jackie Kirkland: After a lot of prayer, work and putting this in God's hands, I am so proud to be part of this PNC. We have worked together through thick and thin and allowed God to*

*lead us to the person that we believe is meant to be a part of the Rumble family as our pastor. One of the most important things to me is Kathy's enthusiasm for God and the Bible. The fact that she is such a kind, warm and genuinely sincere person is a bonus. I really appreciate her professionalism and her humor. I know that Rumble and our church family will flourish with her leadership.*

*Jane Rogers: Early Sunday morning, as I was out at sunrise driving to work early at Appalachian Ski Mountain, I was awed by the amazing beauty of the sunrise as I rounded an eastern facing curve. At that moment I knew what I wanted to say at the Congregational Meeting in hopes of confirming our candidate, Kathy Beach, for the pastorate at Rumble Church. As the God-given beauty and opportunities of the new day was portrayed so dramatically and amazingly by this magnificent sunrise, Kathy is the new beginning of a new era for Rumble Church - an opportunity, called by God, to Rumble Church.*

*Ann Rhyne: When I read Kathy's PIF, I thought it was good; when we had our Skype interview, I thought it went well. BUT when we spend the better part of 2 days face to face with Kathy – hearing a sermon; eating together; asking lots of questions – I was wowed & knew she was something special. As we talked, I felt as if I was talking with a longtime friend. Kathy was genuinely interested in what we were talking about and asked questions to delve deeper. Kathy's leadership style is one of shared leadership – collaborating with staff & congregation members to give them ownership. She looks forward to being pastor of a smaller church and getting to know each of you; your stories; and the story of our church family. Kathy speaks of missions as “faith in action”. Several of her references spoke of her “heart for missions.” She envisions Rumble selecting several “signature” missions and focusing on these.*

*Kathy is compassionate & gentle while being able to stand up for what she believes and what is best for leading her church. I look forward to working with Kathy & to hearing her wonderfully crafted & Bible-based sermons here at Rumble.*

*Debora Smith: I feel like we have journeyed through this with you, as we have so fervently felt your prayers. We have put ourselves in your place and imagined how each candidate might be a pastor you; how he or she might be your counselor, your teacher, your friend, and a leader to our congregation, staff, and Session.*

*We have reviewed a number of devoted Christians, eloquent preachers, pastors who, through their example, gave us an image of Christ in their care for and their love of their community. We've heard stories that touched our hearts. We've met those who we felt would challenge us daily to stretch and grow in our faith. We've met those that we'd like to share a morning and a cup of coffee with, or an evening and a glass of wine. We've felt the tenderness and care which some would shower on us in our grief and struggles. We've met those who would rise to the challenge of problem-solving and discerning a vision for a congregation.*

*Kathy seemed to embody all the characteristics of a pastor that Rumble both desired and, as we've journeyed together in these last 26 months without a called pastor, now need to help Rumble move forward in service together.*

*Kathy is charming. Kathy is tough and pragmatic. Kathy sees through an issue to its essence. She is undaunted in her focus. She is a teacher with experience in Christian Ed, outreach and mission, administration and personnel, and worship. The love with which she balances all of this while raising her children, is inspiring.*

*That Kathy feels called to lead this congregation, is undeniable. In our attempt at full disclosure, we shared all of the blessings that each of us have found in the life of this church, as well as the*

*challenges we have experienced. Kathy calmly nodded and made a note; we could see her formulating ideas to be a part of the solution.*

*There was, ultimately, little discussion, only confirmation, from the seven of us PNC members, that Kathy was the one God was calling to lead Rumble. We look forward to you all getting to know her as we have, and look for those things that she can share with you personally, as well as our entire congregation. She will be a pastor, a friend, a fellow-traveler...so many of the things, that in our survey, you asked for us to discern in our next pastor. Please welcome her into the Rumble family!*

*Misty Mayfield: Kathy has a contagious spirit of love and compassion that helped shift the dynamic of our PNC after several emotional months. I felt this most acutely the evening that we voted unanimously to extend a call to Kathy. At the moment of that vote, the feeling in the room changed. We shared a moment of excitement and love that I wasn't sure was possible after some of our more challenging meetings. Her love of Christ and desire to serve this church helped bring hope, unity, and excitement to an exhausted PNC!*

*Mike Steele would like to share an email from Sam Marshall that Sam sent after Salem Presbytery's Examinations meeting with Kathy this past Thursday: What a great day we had interviewing and examining Kathy – the committee lamented that our schedule prevented us from having an even longer exchange of thoughts and ideas related to serving the Church. What a wonderful collection of "gifts" she brings to all of us at Salem Presbytery.....the congregation is deservedly excited, as evidenced by the grins and smiles on the faces of the PNC when the Examinations Committee welcomed Kathy.....Great job!!!!!!*

*Gracefully, Sam Marshall*

PNC chair: *It is with great honor that I move that the congregation of Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church issues the call, presented previously, to Rev. Kathryn Anne Beach to serve as our Solo Pastor.*

Motion passed unanimously.

PNC chair: *I move that the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee be elected by the congregation to sign the call, and to prosecute the call at the next meeting of Salem Presbytery on February 21.*

Motion passed unanimously.

PNC chair: *I move that the Pastor Nominating Committee be dissolved by the congregation, upon the installation of Rev. Kathryn Anne Beach.*

Motion passed unanimously.

We look forward to welcoming Kathy and her children into our Rumble family and are excited for you all to get to know her. They will be moving into the manse on March 1 and are looking forward to living in the manse. Her first day on site is March 7 and her first Sunday in the pulpit is March 12. There will be a reception to welcome Kathy and her family following worship on the 12<sup>th</sup>. We would also like to start planning small group gatherings for Kathy to meet our congregation. A sign-up sheet is on Hazel's desk if you would like to sign-up to host one of these gatherings with a few of your Rumble friends. Kathy's bio packet and video will be on the Rumble website later this week if you would like to share it with anyone who couldn't be here today.

We again thank you so much for your prayers and support. We ask for your continued prayers for the future of this church as we welcome Kathy to our Rumble family.

Closing prayer offered by Davis Hankins: *Holy God, to whom we have turned in our long period of discernment, and from whom we have received guidance, energy, and grace upon grace.*

*We thank you for this church that we call home, for its rich history of shining your light in the high country, and for its future in which we know that you will call us beyond ourselves, beyond our pasts, and into a new period in our life with you.*

*We thank you for the ministry and the witness of our sister, Reverend Kathy, and for your guiding Spirit that has so clearly brought our paths together. We pray for a safe and smooth transition for her, and for her family as they move from the coast to the mountains.*

*As she must move so too we ask you to move us with a spirit of openness and grace, that we may welcome her with love and support.*

*Ready us to become agents of your reconciling hospitality; prepare us to accept the costs of being your disciples; and free us from ourselves that we may live wholly for you, serving our neighbors and loving our enemies.*

*With grateful hearts and bright hope for our future at Rumble, we pray in the name of the lord of the church, the crucified Jesus.*

*Amen.*