

Dear Church family,

We're glad to be able to provide you with our most recent search committee update.

It was good to see so many of you asking questions and hearing from our elders at the three dates they provided in August to talk with the session. Thank you to all who gave input, shared your experiences, and expressed ideas (in particular, those that related to our work on this committee). We are also grateful to Marion Clark, who moderated the talks and shared of his own experiences and gave us all a better understanding of the PCA Book of Church Order and the ways that our denomination carefully guides the work of calling a lead pastor.

One note we took away from the Meet With Elders sessions is that the congregation wants to hear from us, even when there is nothing to report. We hear you! We will update you regularly, and we ask in turn that when the news is mundane, you increase your prayers on our behalf even more!

The meetings were encouraging to us in another way, as we observed the zeal for unity and action and ministry as a church body – not just in the elders but in all of us. It was noted that the Spirit can be seen clearly working in times such as these amongst church families. And even now, as we send this update, the first week of new fall activities has begun and we are encouraged to see our church members giving to and receiving from each other, folks reaching out to meet new people and to know others better, and the work and ministry of FPC continuing.

A question was asked in one of the meetings about how best to support the members of our committee as we continue. We are grateful for—and frankly, we need—your prayers, your words of encouragement, your questions. We also need your ideas and input. Thank you to those who have given us names already; these suggestions have been super helpful! Our congregation has members and attenders from around the nation, and if you think of pastors from other areas that you'd like us to consider, please let us know. The more personal connections we can have to those we are considering, the better.

We are meeting every other week and in between meetings we review resumes, listen to sermons, and conduct interviews. This summer, we conducted 6 interviews, and more are being scheduled for the coming weeks. We are focusing on candidates with broad experience. Can you pray for us as we seek to be patient and to trust in the work of the Spirit in this search? You can pray for us as a committee or as individual members, or both: Dave Burbridge, Cindy Fitzgerald, Sarah Jones, Rob Joss, Tim Moniz, Russ Queen, Nina Walters, and Becki Whetsel.

One last note: have you sensed a theme in our updates regarding prayer? Prayer sustains us. Prayer reminds us who is in control of this process. And prayer unites us to each other and to all of you through our Lord and Intercessor Christ Jesus. We are planning another all-church prayer time like the one we hosted last Fall. Look for details in the coming weeks about this meeting.

In Christ,

The Pastoral Search Committee

[firstpresmasearch@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresmasearch@gmail.com)