



## Dear Friends,

As your Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) elected to nominate the next Senior Pastor, we would like to share this update on the progress we are making. We thank you, the congregation, for entrusting this important responsibility to us and for your continued prayers for our work.

### PNC Updates:

#### Preparation

- We were blessed to have been given a "head start" on the process by the Pastoral Transition Team which was formed by the Session late last Summer. Their work product included a careful and thorough consultant selection process as well as a draft of the full Opportunity Profile.
- We have held three retreats as a team, during which we shared our testimonies and covered our process and each other in prayer.
- Each of our weekly meetings begins with prayer and with a devotional as we work our way through the book, *The Way of Discernment—Spiritual Practices for Decision Making*, by Elizabeth Liebert.

#### Spreading the Word

- The Opportunity Profile and associated video have been posted on [our website](#) and the website of our recruiter, Dingman Company.
- Dingman's announcement of our search has been sent to over 500 individuals in their network who are potential candidates or sources on this assignment.
- Early response via Dingman, our site, and other contacts is highly encouraging.
- Several of our members attended the Eco National Gathering in Dallas in early February where there was a high degree of awareness of our search and much interest on the part of pastors and laypeople throughout the denomination.

#### Process in Place

- We have developed a target timeline for the search with milestones and "no later than" dates for those milestones. We realize, of course, that God is in control of the actual timeline but we feel it is important that we prayerfully set some goals.
- We have worked with Dingman Company to develop a candidate pathway through the search process that will be followed by each candidate for as long as they remain under consideration.
- Candidates are being tracked and assessed. Technology has been a huge benefit for us. We are able to observe recordings of Zoom interviews of early-stage candidates by our consultant. In addition, we are evaluating sermon videos provided by candidates.
- Overall, we are encouraged by the way in which our process is tracking with our proposed timeline. We feel that we are on track to bring a final nomination to the congregation in time for the successful candidate to work alongside Dr. Birchfield in an orderly transition leading up to his departure early next year.

### What You Can Do:

1. Please pray for our committee, that we lean strongly on the leading of the Holy Spirit in all of our deliberations.
2. Continue to spread the word about the search, pointing people to our website where there is a link on the landing page to complete information about the process.

Thank you,  
Pastor Nominating Committee

#### Members:

**Chris Derden, Co-Chair**  
**Janet Lionberger, Co-Chair**  
**Cindy Cook**  
**Dade Dowdle**  
**Sabrina Espinoza**  
**Houghton Hutcheson**  
**James Melchers**  
**Sam Murray**  
**Fred Robertson**  
**Claudia Stewart**  
**Mary Wassef**



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