

PNC Search Update – Report to the Congregation

Based on recent feedback from the congregation, your Pastor Nominating Committee wanted to provide you with more details about the search process as we continue to prayerfully discern God's call as to who will be our next pastor/head of staff.

Our former pastor, Phil Jones, left for his new call Oct. 31, 2007 and our interim pastor, Conley Zomermaand, started Jan.1, 2008.

In July 2008, a seven-person team chaired by Shirley Timonere was formed and began researching and writing the Mission Study, which was approved by Session and the Presbytery in January 2009.

Following the approval of the Mission Study, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was elected by the congregation at a special meeting on Sunday, March 1, 2009.

Ten days later, the PNC gathered for the first time and met with Maumee Valley General Presbyter Hillary Shuford and Committee on Ministry Liaison Jodi Schmidt and then organized by electing Jim Calderone and Annette Blair as co-chairs and Helen Kirk as secretary.

The PNC immediately went to work, repurposing the data and materials from the Mission Study and writing the Church Information Form (CIF). Session approved the CIF on April 21 and the Committee on Ministry approved it May 8. It was uploaded to the PCUSA's Web site and matched to pastoral candidates' Personal Information Forms (PIFs), based on our CIF criteria.

The PNC began receiving matches from the Web site and also reviewed many PIFs from pastors who contacted the committee via e-mail. Besides the PCUSA Web site, our pastor/head of staff position also was advertised in the *Presbyterian Outlook* publication and on its Web site.

The committee's evaluation process – which is mandated by Presbytery – is thorough. Each candidate's PIF is approximately seven pages long and is reviewed by each committee member. If the candidate is at a church that has a Web site, the committee members visit the Web site to learn more information about the candidate and also listen to any sermons that may be posted online.

At the PNC's weekly meeting, each candidate is discussed and voted on by the committee. If the committee has interest in a candidate, the candidate is contacted to determine if the candidate is interested in initiating discussions with our church. If so, the candidate is asked to submit sermons and additional literature for review.

The committee then reviews this material and decides if the candidate should be moved to the next step – a Presbyter to Presbyter reference check. If Presbyter approval is received, a first interview is set up via conference call.

The week following the conference call, the committee discusses the candidate and whether to move the candidate forward in the process. The candidate is also contacted to ensure there is mutual interest in continuing the discussion. If so, several of the following actions take place:

- A second telephone interview may be scheduled
- The PNC may travel to the candidate's church to worship and hear the candidate preach
- An in-person interview may be scheduled
- The candidate may be invited to Maumee for an interview

After some combination of the above actions has occurred AND both sides wish to continue, the candidate will interview with the Maumee Valley Presbytery Committee on Ministry.

When the PNC identifies the person that God is calling to be our next pastor, an offer of call will be extended. If the candidate agrees to the call, the details will be finalized and the candidate will be presented to the congregation for vote.

The PNC has met weekly over the past 11 months – except for July 22 and Dec. 22 – and currently has candidates at all stages of the review and interview process.

The questions you want answered the most – who our new pastor will be and when the new pastor will be here – only God knows. The PNC is confident God is leading us to a candidate He has already selected for our church. Please continue to pray for patience in this process.

In Christ,

Your Pastor Nominating Committee

Annette Blair

Ian Bova

Jim Calderone

Lois Driver

Erin Hensel

Derek Jacobson

Helen Kirk

John Pike

Kelly Saneholtz

Andy Woodard