

Pastoral Search: Update from the Interim Search Committee

August 1, 2024

The search for an interim pastor is progressing rapidly! We've received over ten applications and are now conducting Zoom interviews with the most promising candidates. Given the summer vacation period, it may take us the rest of the season—or a bit longer—to complete these interviews.

Our next steps involve narrowing down the list, checking references, and reviewing sermon recordings. The Presbytery will then evaluate the shortlisted candidates, and the committee will ultimately recommend an individual to the Session.

Committee members include Doug Blomgren, Fran Mertz-Phinney, Diane Ponder, Brenda Peterson, Peter Vanden Bosch, and Jon Bates.

Bridge-Interim-Permanent Pastor Process

As we come nearer to hiring an interim head pastor, it's a good time to look at the overall process of calling a head pastor.

Pastor Brenna is our Bridge Pastor, temporarily serving as head of staff until we have an Interim Pastor. At that point, she will return to her position as one of our Associate Pastors.

We simply don't know how the Holy Spirit will work and how events will unfold, so we avoid establishing a schedule. We should have an Interim Pastor in a matter of months. It could be as much as a few years before we have a new permanent Head Pastor.

Having an Interim Pastor guide a church through a transition is typical in our denomination, and is strongly encouraged by our Presbytery. An interim's specific role is to guide our congregation and its leaders in a process of discernment -- evaluating just who our church is and what God wants us to become.

This is a key step in the process of calling the right Head Pastor. Pastor Audrey did a tremendous job of leading us to one vision of our church, and that vision didn't leave with her -- but neither does it remain unchanged.

In following this bridge-interim-permanent pastor model for calling a new Head Pastor, we are both adhering to our denomination's rules and pursuing its very essence: *Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda* -- reformed and always reforming!

WHO ARE WE?

WHO IS GOD CALLING US TO BE?

WHERE IS GOD CALLING US TO GO?