

Pastor Nominating Committee Update – December 2023

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues the work of discerning and calling a minister. Although there can be periods of perceived silence during these weeks/months, rest assured that the committee continues to meet regularly and do the work that is ahead of us. We wanted to provide you with some general updates as we enter this season of Advent.

As a reminder, the PNC, representative of the whole congregation and elected by the congregation, has the ultimate responsibility for nominating a minister to the congregation for election as the next pastor.

Trinity Presbytery provides guidance, resources and other services to the PNC as they go through the pastoral search process. Our committee works closely with Trinity Presbytery leadership to ensure we follow the process that has been laid out before us. All pastoral relationships are approved by Trinity Presbytery.

Choosing the right person is the number one goal of the PNC. Making this choice takes prayerful guidance, patience, good process and spiritual discernment. To date the PNC has received and reviewed more than 60 Pastoral Discernment Profile (PDPs) from call seekers. The review process includes reviewing their PDP, going to church websites, listening to sermons via Facebook, YouTube, etc., checking references and corresponding verbally and/or written with some of the call seekers.

You might be wondering what the next steps are in the process when our committee has determined and discerned the right person to call as senior pastor. Here are the steps that must occur in sequence:

1. Our PNC unanimously agrees on the candidate to call.
2. Our PNC obtains Trinity Presbytery approval. Trinity Presbytery leadership has the responsibility to examine and approve the nominee and approve terms of call.
3. Once we have received necessary approvals, the PNC will coordinate with session in scheduling the congregational meeting to call a new pastor. Session has the responsibility to call the congregational meeting to hear the report of the PNC. At the congregational meeting, the PNC will present the nominee to the congregation.
4. Once the congregation has approved the nominee, the appropriate call papers are signed, which includes a start date.
5. Following the election of a new pastor, and the call papers are signed, the PNC has completed their specific task. Trinity Presbytery leadership will then prepare for the ordination/installation of the new pastor.

What can you do? Please continue to support the ministry of the church through prayer, participation and financial support, pray regularly for the PNC, and respect the confidentiality the PNC is committed to. If there are any questions, please contact any of us directly or through Terry Peace, PNC Secretary, 803.479.6288, or terry.peace058@gmail.com.

With grateful hearts,

Anna Edwards & Angie MacQueen, PNC Co-chairs;
Jason Clayton, Becky Hash, Leslie Lindler, Robby Milam, Terry Peace