

PNC UPDATE

August 7, 2024

Dear First Pres Family,

Our last update to the congregation was given at the congregational meeting held in May. At that time, the PNC shared that we were in deep discussions with a candidate who strongly resonated with the values and vision we, as a church, hold for our next senior pastor; but in the end, the candidate felt a different call. An additional candidate was also engaged in deeper discussions, but as we discerned with them, we had to acknowledge that it wasn't going to work despite a warm and respectful relationship.

Throughout this process, we've had both high and low moments and can imagine that you are similar to us—waiting on the Lord one moment, then questioning His ways in the next. What has been unexpected is how these moments are shaping our souls toward surrendering to God's timing over ours and toward discerning His wisdom rather than our own. While this does not lead to faster or easier results, it does foster increased trust and patience among the committee.

We are currently engaged with several viable candidates and continue to move through the interview process, discerning alongside each candidate.

The PNC has found many helpful scriptures that speak to the Lord's promise of provision and peace during this journey. If it would be of benefit to you, consider using the verses below from Isaiah to meditate upon.

Isaiah 55:1-3, 8-13

*"Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters;
and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare.
Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live."*

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands."

We continue to welcome your thoughts, encouragement, and perspectives. You may contact any member of the PNC individually, or may email the group at: pnc@1stpres.com.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Burke, Michelle Collins, Gayle Ford, Nathan Hatch, Scott Herman, Chuck Hobbs,
Whitney Hunter, David Satterwhite and Tim Sechrest