



July 7, 2023

Dear First Pres Family,

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to work diligently in reviewing and speaking with candidates and seeking God's guidance in finding the next Senior Pastor for our church. We remain committed to regular communication with our covenant partners via periodic updates in the church newsletter. Our last update was in the June 14, 2023 newsletter. While the PNC process is necessarily confidential, we do wish to inform you that we have decided to not consider those who are currently on our pastoral staff in the search process.

The PNC has embraced the transition period as it has been traditionally understood in the Presbyterian church: a space and an opportunity for deliberate discernment. This search and transition process is designed to afford the congregation and church leadership time to reflect, to enlist a transition pastor to provide guidance and pastoral care, and to collectively embrace new leadership in God's timing.

In early June, the PNC directly communicated its desire to follow the traditional approach of seeking a new Senior Pastor, one who does not currently serve on our church staff, to our pastors and to the chair of the Personnel Committee. The PNC's approach should not be interpreted as a negative reflection on any staff member. Covenant Partners have shared valuable input regarding characteristics and priorities that they desire for our next Senior Pastor, some of which are based on their experiences with our own pastoral staff, and these suggestions have enriched the PNC's conversations.

While we are unable to disclose the specifics of any candidates, the PNC prays regularly for the pastors we are learning about and with whom we have engaged throughout our search. We include our own beloved pastors: Amy, Jace, and Mike, in these prayers, and are thankful for God's call on their lives and for the work they do in our midst. We are also grateful for the insights, experiences, and observations our pastors have shared with the PNC regarding the search for our next Senior Pastor. We invite you to join us in praying for these pastors, as well as for the work of the PNC.

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

*The members of the PNC are: Suzanne Burke, Michelle Collins, Gayle Ford, Nathan Hatch, Scott Herman, Chuck Hobbs, Whitney Hunter, David Satterwhite, and Tim Sechrest.*