



August 23, 2023

Greetings from the PNC!

For this month's update, our hope is to provide you with a pulse for what our process has been, where we currently find ourselves, and what we believe to be ahead. Additionally, we'll attempt to give you a glimpse of what it is like serving on the PNC.

What's behind us:

- We have met together as a committee every week, with the exception of one, since January. Thanks to Zoom and admirable dedication, committee members have attended in person or virtually from Winston Salem, Asheville, Nashville, California, South Carolina, Dublin, Utah, Idaho, Washington, and various NC beaches throughout the summer!
- We have received applications and recommendations from far and wide. The span of candidates, both referred and self-nominating, have been many in number and giftings. As a committee, we are humbled and grateful that First Pres is a place that catches peoples' attention.
- We have watched and listened to countless hours of sermons-- some have been beautifully crafted and poignant, while others have not seemed to be the best tone or fit for our congregation.
- Thanks to the internet, social media, and a little bit of grit and determination, some of us have become near experts in researching information on pastors we're considering.

What we're up to now:

- We continue to seek and entertain new applicants, both self-nominating and those recommended to us.
- We desire and are working toward cultivating deeper relationships with several compelling candidates.
- We remain faithful and steadfast in prayer and participation as we listen, learn, and discern.

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What's ahead:

- We continue to enjoy our time together as a PNC. The rhythm of our work together contains multitudes: encouraging, fast-paced, and life-giving at times, while disheartening, tedious, and even frustrating at others. All the while, we remain grateful for the team's unity, growth, and kindness toward one another, and we are pleased to report that we even have a little fun from time to time!
- While we can not be sure how much of our process remains to unfold, we earnestly commit to the following:
 - Preparing our own hearts and minds for the transition ahead, while seeking to find ways to encourage all of you in this as well.
 - Praying that God's call for the direction of our church would become evident to US and to the person He is calling.
 - Resting in the certainty of who God is, leaning on Him as we attempt to accomplish what He has charged us to do, and praising Him for how He continues to nurture our church body in the midst of the waiting.

Sincerely,

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