

Dear Covenant Partners and Friends of First Pres,

Session is thrilled to share with you that Reverend Doctor Jace R. Broadhurst has accepted the call to serve as our Transitional Pastor and Head of Staff. We unanimously approved a formal recommendation from the Transition Committee to extend him an offer on January 25. The Transition Committee's strong and enthusiastic recommendation followed a diligent discernment process of reviewing resumes, contacting candidates, interviewing finalists, and checking references to find a leader to shepherd First Presbyterian Church through this period of transition between senior pastors. The North Carolina Presbytery has already interviewed and approved Jace for ministry in this presbytery. He will start in early March 2022 and will serve until a new senior pastor is called and in place.

The Transitional Pastor is not a "placeholder position" meant to simply warm the pulpit for a time, but a leadership role in which the vision and mission of First Pres is actively lived. Our work to align programming and scheduling with our "Three E's" mission frame will continue. Jace will also work collaboratively with the Senior Leadership Team and congregational lay leaders to identify and address any areas in need of improvement. Jace will advise Session in determining when the Senior Pastor search should begin. The first step in this process will be to direct the Congregational Nominating Committee to prepare a slate for the Pastoral Nominating Committee to be elected by the Congregation.

Jace is currently serving as the interim Senior Pastor at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Bakersfield, California. In this role he is responsible for leading all areas of ministry and supporting the congregation through a period of transition, much as he will do at First Pres. He is known as a listener, eager to empower talent, build trust and address hard things in love. Jace also currently creates and teaches classes as a professor in the Biblical Coaching program at Trinity School in Warsaw, Indiana.

Originally from Rockville, Maryland, Jace first ministered to his hometown as the Director of Single Adults at Derwood Bible Church. His subsequent professional titles include Pastor of Single Adults, Professor of Old Testament, Deacon, and Teacher in roles calling him to Florida, Kenya, Pennsylvania, and back to Maryland, where he served as Senior Pastor at Poolesville Baptist Church before being called to serve as Senior Pastor at Warsaw Evangelical Presbyterian Church in Indiana. Additionally, Jace has enjoyed significant preaching and speaking engagements around the U.S, Kenya, Uganda, Trinidad, Dominican Republic and China.

Jace's experience serving large and small congregations in a variety of roles and his service as a conference leader, teacher, preacher, writer and missions liaison gives us great confidence that God has equipped Jace to lead First Pres during this period of transition. Among the many attributes that stood out to the Transition Committee was his stated ministry objective: "My passion is to serve the church," he said. "I long to see the church look like its Savior, and I hope to love and encourage God's people to that end." As our Transitional Pastor, Jace will love our church family well and help us to know Jesus better.

Jace earned a B.A. from the University of Maryland, a Master of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. from Westminster Theological Seminary.

Of his family, Jace said, “My relationship with my family is of utmost importance. We try to model love, respect, and submission to one another in everything.” Jace’s beloved wife, Jaclynnette, died after a battle with cancer in 2015. Together they have three sons: Kadin (21), Rhyston (20) and Davin (17).

The Transition Committee has been impressed with Jace’s energy and clear commitment to leading Christians to be active participants in the Christian life. Session has discerned that Jace Broadhurst is the transitional pastor that God has selected for First Presbyterian Church. Look for more details in “First This Week” about opportunities to welcome Jace and his sons into the First Pres family.

Please join Session in expressing gratitude to the Transition Committee (Dave Anderson, Kathy Brookby, Rooney Craig, Eric Hoyle, Elizabeth Marsh and Jim Welsh) for their work and prayerful discernment.

Yours in Christ,

The Session of First Presbyterian Church

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