

Update from the Transition Committee, January 2020

As we enter a new calendar year, much is happening in terms of our transition to a new senior pastor. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has completed all the requisite documents and has updated our church's MIF – Mission Information Form – and the PNC is now seeking resumes and recommendations regarding potential candidates for the senior pastor position. Of course, Pastor Pete will continue to serve VPC through most of 2020, with plans to retire near the end of this year after a period of transition with VPC's new Senior Pastor.

Although this process can produce questions, concerns and uncertainty, we can be assured that God is in control, and He knows whom He has chosen to be our next Senior Pastor. It is this reality that brings us to the critical subject of prayer.

The Transition Committee believes that it is essential for our church to uphold this entire process in prayer. We are thankful that many members of the VPC community have been praying about this process for quite a period of time. However, we want to ensure that every member of the congregation of VPC is engaged in prayer for both this critical shift in leadership and other important VPC initiatives. Toward this end, we are organizing three opportunities to pray – in addition to one's personal prayer time – for the work of the PNC, for the various personnel transitions that will occur this year, and for other aspects of Christ's work here at VPC.

First, throughout 2020 we will send out a weekly email that will be sent to everyone who subscribes to Realm, simply reminding folks to pray. The email will include several prayer requests regarding the work of the PNC or other dimensions of the ministries of our church. If you have not yet accessed Realm and adjusted the settings to include email notifications, please set this as a top priority in January 2020. Realm is a vital communication vehicle at VPC. For help, please contact a VPC Staff member.

The second initiative involves specifically lifting the PNC and its critical mission up in prayer. Once a month we will provide an opportunity, for anyone who is interested, to participate in a time of prayer with the members of the PNC via a telephone conference line for a fifteen minute time period at the beginning of a PNC meeting. Thus, the members of the PNC will be hearing directly from members of the congregation, and we will all be engaged in prayer for this important process.

The third initiative is an opportunity to periodically gather together in person for prayer at the church. We will come together for the first time after the Congregational Meeting on February 2nd and again on each "Fifth Sunday" in March, May, August and November. Our pastors will lead us in a time of thanksgiving and prayer – for the work of the PNC, for the various transitions that will occur this year, and for other dimensions of the work of Christ at VPC.

The Transition Committee is calling every member of our church community to unite in prayer throughout 2020 during this critical time of transition from the capable hands of Pastor Pete to

our new Senior Pastor. We are thankful for God's provision for our beloved church; our team of Pastors and staff are light-filled servant leaders dedicated to Christ and the mission of our church. Together we can respond to change, not with fear, but trusting in God's good plans for VPC.

Please be on the lookout for additional information about these prayer initiatives in the coming weeks. These three activities will probably evolve over time, and we may have to work out some kinks in the processes; however, the point is to provide additional opportunities to pray as a church. We hope that you will join us as we joyously engage our hearts in prayer, giving thanks, as God's plans for the future of VPC are revealed.