

## Introducing the VPC Transition Committee

In 2017 the Session of VPC recognized that our church was going to experience several significant transitions and established a Transition Committee to coordinate the many and varied activities associated with the transitions. The most prominent transition was the envisioned retirement of Pastor Pete James after more than 40 years of service to VPC. However, there are several other envisioned staff retirements as well. The Transition Committee has been meeting and planning throughout this intervening time period, coordinating with the Presbytery, Session, and Staff, and this notice is meant to inform everyone in our church family about the committee and its functions.

The role of the Transition Committee is primarily a coordinating function. The members of the Transition Committee are Randi DeWeese, Jeanie Thomas, John Davidovich, Michelle Lowell, Ellen Field, John Wendler and Wood Parker. Pastors Pete James and Glenda Simpkins Hoffman are also members of the Transition Team.

Plans for Pastor Pete James' retirement and the process for selecting a new Senior Pastor are proceeding well. The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was elected by the congregation on June 23, 2019, and was officially commissioned on Sunday, September 29, 2019 during the worship service that day. The PNC is working prayerfully and diligently under the guidance of Rev. Larry Hayward, Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, who represents our Presbytery. PNC Co-chairs John Hall and Yvonne Malloy have been leading members through the various preparatory steps and requisite documents. Pictures and bios of the members of the PNC, along with some Frequently Asked Questions about the work of a PNC, can be found at [www.viennapres.org/PNC](http://www.viennapres.org/PNC). We continue to envision that the work of the PNC will be finalized when a new Senior Pastor is identified by the PNC and called by the congregation, sometime in the latter part of calendar year 2020. Pastor Pete James will continue to serve as Senior Pastor up until that time, although the exact retirement date will be established in coordination with the new Senior Pastor.

No one could have foreseen the sudden passing of Pastor David Jordan-Haas and the great void we all feel as we reflect on the spirit-filled, healing love he showered on our community. However, as much as we miss him and his wonderful gifts of ministry, we have communicated the Session's decision to have Pastor Charles Geschiere assume most of David's responsibilities of Pastoral Care. Pastor Glenda Simpkins Hoffman will continue as our Senior Associate Pastor, and her wisdom and discernment will bring much needed continuity and spiritual guidance to VPC staff, lay leaders, and the entire VPC Community as we prayerfully recommit to our mission and stay attuned to God's leading as our new Senior Pastor is called.

The Transition Team plans on communicating to the congregation approximately once a month to keep everyone informed of what is happening in terms of the transitions. We also hope to organize a way for VPC members to be actively engaged in the all-important task of praying for

our church through all of the transitions we are facing. God is good. We are privileged to have had the stability associated with Pastor Pete's many years of service to VPC. However, he has richly earned a good retirement, and part of the Transition Team's function is to ensure that all of VPC helps him "finish well." And we rest in the confidence that God will have the right person to serve this congregation as its new Senior Pastor.

If anyone has any questions or suggestions, please don't hesitate to reach out to the Transition Committee by emailing Wood Parker at [t.woodparker@gmail.com](mailto:t.woodparker@gmail.com).