

PNC Frequently Asked Questions:

1) Why do we need a Pastoral Nominating Committee? Shouldn't we start with an Interim pastor?

Presbyterians have long taken to heart the words of Paul to the Corinthians when he advised "All things should be done decently and in order" (1Cor 14:40). To this point, committees or teams are at the heart of Presbyterian congregations. When it became clear that Pete had a retirement date in mind, the first step was to establish a Transition Committee. That Transition Committee began working with Presbytery to determine whether foregoing an interim and transitioning straight into a new senior pastor would be possible. With VPC having established itself in good order in terms of a clear mission, vision, and a full staffing profile, it was decided by the committee and approved by Session and the Presbytery that an interim pastor was not necessary. It was imperative to have the congregation involved, so after Pete announced in April that his retirement would take place at the end of 2020, the congregation was invited in May to attend one of three informational meetings and to submit recommendations for the PNC. VPC's Nominating committee met and spent time in personal prayer and intentional discernment to try to assemble the best slate of candidates from this large list of outstanding recommendations. At a congregational meeting on June 23, 2019, members were elected to the PNC to begin the search process which will culminate in bringing a recommendation for the new senior pastor to the congregation for vote.

2) Who are the members of the PNC?

The members of the PNC are as follows, with roles decided upon after a full discussion and prayerful discernment by all committee members.

John Hall, Co-chair

Yvonne Malloy, Co-chair

Chris Dowell, Recording Secretary

Teri Dungan, Corresponding Secretary

Megan Gerbracht, Devotions Co-lead

Ryan Seckinger, IT Lead

Rachel Thompson, Communications Lead

Beth Webster, Hospitality Lead

Dan Wright, Devotions Co-lead

You can find bios on the members at <http://viennapres.org/pnc>

3) Does the PNC have a particular type of person they are looking to find?

The kind of person we will be looking for will be delineated within the Ministry Information Form. Writing and completing this form is one of the main tasks for the PNC. This document is full of statistical and historical data about our church, but also contains essays that will help explain what VPC is all about including its well-established vision and mission. The PNC will be working to come to consensus on those descriptions and will be gathering information from multiple sources within existing staff and committees to present a valid representation of the congregation and ministry.

4) Can one of our existing pastors become our senior pastor?

Only by Presbytery exception.

Per the PC(USA) Book of Order: An associate pastor is ordinarily not eligible to be the next installed pastor of that congregation. G-2.05 F

From the PNC Manual on Calling a Pastor: Succession Restrictions - Ordinarily an associate pastor is not eligible to become the next installed pastor of the congregation he or she is serving. In the same way, a temporary pastor is not ordinarily eligible to become the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor (Book of Order, G-2.0504a-b). If a presbytery determines that in its mission strategy it is advisable for a teaching elder currently serving as associate pastor or temporary pastor, to be permitted to serve as the next installed pastor, co-pastor, or associate pastor, the relationship shall be established by a three-fourths vote of the members of the presbytery present and voting (Book of Order, G-2.0504c).

5) Will this PNC be in charge of calling a pastor to replace David Jordan-Haas?

This PNC will not be tasked with that decision.

6) How can I communicate with the PNC

Please contact us via email at PNC@viennapres.org