

On January 3<sup>rd</sup> Pastor Pete embarked on his final Sermon Series at Vienna Presbyterian Church . Over 42 years at VPC, he has preached more than 3,500 sermons from our pulpit. With his February 28<sup>th</sup> final sermon/retirement date looming large on the church calendar, we will certainly receive this final “What Matters Most” sermon series with open and grateful hearts over the coming weeks.

At the same time, we look forward with great anticipation to meeting our new Senior Pastor! While we wait for the PNC to complete all the steps of its process, periodically the Transition Committee will share available information about the upcoming transition in the form of Frequently Asked Questions and answers. The first question deals with the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and its selection process.

**Explain the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) process. Provide a snapshot of the entire PNC process from the members’ election to the new pastor’s nomination.**

The PNC is comprised of nine members who were elected at a special congregational meeting on June 23, 2019. These members include: Chris Dowell, Teri Dungan, John Hall (Co-Chair), Megan Gerbracht, Yvonne Malloy (Co-Chair), Ryan Seckinger, Rachel Thompson, Beth Webster, and Dan Wright. The PNC conducts the search for the new head pastor to lead VPC, and the most valuable resources the PNC has at their disposal are scripture and prayer. Additional information about the PNC can be found at <http://viennapres.org/pnc>.

The PNC responsibilities include the following:

- Prepare the Ministry Information Form (MIF)
- Develop criteria for review and assessment of candidates
- Read and evaluate Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from potential candidates
- Interview and conduct reference checks on candidates of interest
- Listen to the candidates preach
- Select a candidate to place in nomination before the congregation
- Provide support to new pastor during the transition period

The PNC has completed most of these steps as noted in the letter to the congregation dated December 29, 2020 (<https://www.viennapres.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/December-2020-PNC-letter-to-congregation.pdf>). The letter states that the PNC has entered into a final stage of discernment with one candidate. The PNC is in the process of completing next steps, which include negotiating terms of call; scheduling a clearance exam of the candidate by Presbytery; and agreeing upon a date for Session to call a congregational meeting wherein they will present the candidate for approval. At that meeting, the congregation will vote to confirm the candidate and terms of call in a single vote.

**Why wasn’t a new pastor in place at the end of 2020?**

On April 28, 2019, Pastor Pete announced that he would retire no later than the end of 2020. While the PNC has worked diligently since its formation in June of 2019, the evaluative process is one that includes prayerful consideration. The PNC does not work toward a deadline to deliver the name of a candidate, rather the group comes together to ultimately discern God's will and guidance in leading them to the next senior pastor of VPC. The Covid-19 pandemic did not prevent the PNC from continuing with the majority of its critical work, but the in-person interview phase was affected by Covid-19 related delays. VPC is fortunate that Pastor Pete and Chris could provide some flexibility in extending time at VPC past December 31, 2020, to February 28, 2021. Covid-19 continues to impose additional delays in the final steps of the PNC process outlined above, but we have several excellent pastors that could provide pastoral and sermon leadership during the time between Pete's retirement and the arrival of our new senior pastor. We also have the support of Presbytery to employ assistance in this area should we need it. Additional information regarding this transition time will be forthcoming.

We encourage you to watch for our FAQ updates in the VPCE-News over the coming weeks and direct any questions you may have to our Transition Committee Email: [transition@viennapres.org](mailto:transition@viennapres.org)