

The Transition Committee encourages you to [watch the Annual Congregational Meeting video](#) from February 2, 2021. John Hall and Yvonne Malloy, Co-chairs of the PNC, and Wood Parker, Chairman of the Transition Committee, presented the very latest information about the upcoming senior pastor transition. The questions below connect to the Annual Meeting presentations. If you have additional questions about the senior pastor transition, we encourage you to share them via our email address: <mailto:transition@viennapres.org>.

Session approved the appointment of Pastor Glenda as Interim Head of Staff effective March 1, 2021. This interim appointment will remain in effect until the new Senior Pastor is in place. Will Pastor Glenda's current responsibilities be pared back to accommodate her new responsibilities?

Pastor Pete's retirement date is February 28, 2021. As the PNC has reported, the new pastor will not arrive at VPC immediately after pastor Pete retires. Session has provided for this by naming Pastor Glenda Interim Head of Staff. This arrangement will remain until the new Senior Pastor is in place. Pastor Glenda has a robust set of responsibilities in her current position. Her workload is currently being reviewed by Staff Committee, who is keenly aware of the need to rebalance her portfolio during this interim arrangement. Pastor Glenda has already re-envisioned some of her teaching responsibilities to minimize the need for writing new curriculum in preparation for the transition. It is important to remember that in this role, Pastor Glenda will not take on the full scope of Pastor Pete's job; rather she will keep essential matters at VPC moving forward. Pastor Glenda and Pastor Pete have worked together in many key areas for the last 14 years. These areas include preaching, leadership planning, and Session responsibilities.

Will Pastor Pete and Chris stay in the area and continue to worship at VPC after Pastor Pete retires?

The Transition Committee established a small group of people to support Pastor Pete and Chris as they consider Pastor Pete's retirement. This group meets periodically to pray with Pete and Chris and contemplate life after VPC. Together they think through questions about future ministry, the potential of moving, financial issues, etc. At the Annual Congregational meeting Pastor Pete shared that he and Chris are contemplating a move to be closer to their children and grandchildren, and also the opportunity for Pastor Pete to teach at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Hamilton, Massachusetts.

Members of our church community should be aware that the Presbytery has policies that govern the contact that a former pastor may have with his or her congregation. These policies state that once a senior pastor's ministry at a given church has been formally concluded, the pastor will not be involved in the management of the church or pastoral care of any kind for the congregation without consent of the Presbytery and the current pastors of the church. These Presbytery rules about interactions by a pastor after retirement with a former congregation are in place to ensure a fresh start for a new senior pastor. Everyone knows that Pastor Pete and Chris will always be welcome at VPC and the friendship between the James Family and VPC will remain. Pastor Pete wants to support the ministry of his successor by giving the new senior pastor the time and space needed at VPC to establish a relationship with the congregation.