

Good morning and thank you for the privilege of your time today. I am Will Martin, and on behalf of fellow Pastor Nominating Committee members Marshall Brown, Wendi Cimino, Ralph Davison, Sheri Evans, Stu Johnston, Rosa McNairy, Anne Shoemaker, Andrew Spainhour, Becky Veraar, and Libby Wakefield, I want to thank you for your engaged input and suggestions thus far. Please continue to contact any of us with your ideas and questions as we move forward together in our search. Since the Pastor Nominating Committee made our first report to the congregation two months ago, many of the important activities we all commit ourselves to from September thru May have gone on stand-by. Those lazy days of summer usually see the academic calendar on break, our coworkers on vacation, and the mail on hold until we return from all those vacations!

Yet, the PNC is delighted to share how the Holy Spirit has stretched and blessed our time these last 8 weeks to allow for frequent, well-attended and productive meetings of the eleven of us. A number of significant strides have been made along our timeline – let me share those details with you this morning.

- First Presbyterian's Ministry Information Form (our job description) has been adopted by Session and uploaded to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) of the PCUSA website.
- Pastor Information Forms – applications, in other words – have begun to arrive from matches made on the CLC, from self-referred candidates, and from other sources.
- We have defined our process for reviewing candidates, with a very serious philosophy of ensuring a positive experience for all those who interact with our committee.
- We have spent valuable time in conversation about the need for maximum transparency balanced with the absolute necessity of total confidentiality.
- Perhaps most important, we have spent time on some most useful team building. We have discovered our individual working styles, our communication preferences, and the unique gifts we bring to the group. Personal connections have been made that are not mere coincidence, but true Spirit-led serendipity. The net result is that since our first meeting in March we have grown together into a cohesive group focused on our charge from the congregation.

Some things we can all anticipate as we go forward -

- PNC work as we receive, read and evaluate candidates' Pastor Information Forms will continue at a busy pace. In addition to the candidate matches we receive from the CLC with Presbytery, in the future we will follow up on candidates referred to us and seek qualified individuals who may be receptive to a change of call.
- PNC will use the strong online presence that FPC maintains to post frequent updates to our main website and the transition team space.
- We as a congregation can embrace the different feel and format our Sunday mornings together will provide, with more preaching, communion and fellowship this fall.

- And while we are on our journey of discernment to find our 12<sup>th</sup> senior pastor, we will all continue to know the power of God's presence each step of the way if we encourage ourselves to support the many programs of fellowship, information, service and inspiration so bountifully available here at FPC now.

I leave you with this message from Paul's letter to the church at Ephesus:

"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."

Let God's people say - Amen