

Greetings from the Session:

Tuesday evening, we met with the Philadelphia Presbytery Committee on Ministry representatives to hear and clarify the Pastoral Search options. After discussion and consideration, we chose to use what is known as the traditional path whereby we will hire a Transitional Pastor (used to be called an Interim Pastor) to serve while we are in the Call process. The Transitional Pastor must leave when we call the permanent installed pastor. With our decision in hand, the Committee on Ministry representatives left our meeting to inform their committee. The Committee on Ministry will need to approve our decision which we expect to happen relatively quickly.

Session will begin writing a job description for the Transitional Pastor. Once the chosen path has been approved, Session will next submit the job description for its approval. Upon job description approval, we can begin interviewing for the Transitional Pastor. Suggested candidates will be received from Presbytery and others. Elders will make the selection and the Session will approve the candidate and the hiring contract. The Committee on Ministry will be part of the selection with review and approval.

In parallel, Session will begin working on the Mission Study that is required by Presbytery to begin the Call process. Owing to the work recently done with our consultants AE Sloan for our Transformation Team project, Session made the decision to bring Sloan back to help write the required Mission Study. Much of the needed information has already been collected during the Transformation project. We will be asking Sloan to help us gather more recent information from you, while fine tuning our previous findings. We ask your participation so that our study can continue to reflect your hopes and your dreams. Our goal is to complete this Mission Study document reasonably quick.

Once the Mission study is approved by the Committee on Ministry, we – you and the Session – will begin to form the Pastoral Nominating Committee. The PNC then begins its work to create the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP) Document that gets posted on the National PCUSA web portal. This document describes our church in great detail. Once posted, the PNC will begin to receive candidate Personal Discernment Profiles (PDP) – the resumes/CVs.

As promised, as the process moves forward, we will do our best to keep you informed. Please, and we cannot stress this enough, seek out the Elders with your questions and comments. You will see them making themselves available before and after. We want to hear from you, we want to know what you are feeling, and we want to know what more we can do to include you in this process. Thank you for listening.