

Pastor Nominating Committee Update, March 8, 2026

We'd like to share an update on our search for FPCA's next pastor.

Following our interviews this fall, we identified a candidate about whom the entire committee felt strongly aligned. We scheduled a final in-person interview and visit to Ambler in November with the candidate. The day before that visit, however, we were informed that the candidate had accepted another call.

Naturally, we were disappointed. We had experienced a strong sense of shared enthusiasm and hope throughout that process. At the same time, we trust that God's call unfolds in ways we don't always expect. While that door closed, we remain confident that God is faithfully guiding both our church and the person who is meant to serve here.

Since then, we have continued reviewing candidates who apply through the Church Leadership Connection website. In December, we also engaged an outside consulting agency that specializes in identifying and sourcing qualified pastoral candidates to bolster and widen our search. Our goal was to cast the net more broadly and ensure we were exploring every possible avenue.

As is often the case around Christmas and the New Year, the pace of activity slowed. When we met with the consultant recently, they shared that the current landscape is very competitive — what they described as a “pastors’ market.” The pool of available experienced candidates is very limited, and many are receiving and accepting calls quickly. They had identified a few potential leads for us, but those individuals accepted other calls during the course of conversations. They also reassured us that extended search timelines are common across churches right now and that our experience is not unique to FPCA. They continue to actively search on our behalf.

In recent weeks, we have continued receiving and reviewing new applications through CLC and through our consultant's efforts. As with any search process, some conversations move forward and others conclude as we discern together whether there is mutual alignment. We remain actively engaged in evaluating candidates and pursuing promising leads as they emerge.

We also want to acknowledge that it has been some time since our last congregational update. That was not a lack of transparency, but rather a reflection of a slower season in the process. Going forward, we are committed to providing more regular updates — even if the update is simply that the search continues.

Most importantly, we ask for your continued prayers — for discernment, patience, unity, and clarity. We truly feel the weight and privilege of this responsibility, and we are approaching each step thoughtfully and prayerfully.

And please know that all eight members of the Pastor Nominating Committee are always available for your questions or conversation. We welcome your engagement and your encouragement.

We remain hopeful and confident that God is preparing the right pastor for FPCA, and preparing FPCA for that pastor. Thank you for your continued trust, support, and prayers.