

Pastor Nominating Committee Update
As of January 28, 2010

In January, 2009, our church had the first meeting of the self study that was our first official step in calling a new pastor. That series of meetings resulted in the Missional Analysis Process report, which is available to the congregation and to prospective pastors.

The nine members and one alternate of the Pastor Nominating Committee have met regularly since our election in May. At our first meeting in June, Joanne Mayes, our Committee on Ministry (COM) liaison with Blackhawk Presbytery, explained our duties and outlined the procedures and guidelines for our work. Since then, we have met weekly, and sometimes more often.

Our first task was writing the Church Information Form (CIF) and submitting it to the COM for approval. This document gives prospective pastors an overview of our church, including our history, programs, and our vision for the future. By early September, our CIF was “online” with the Church Leadership Connection office in Louisville and we received our first set of computer-matched Pastor Information Forms (PIFs). The PIF outlines the pastor’s experience, accomplishments, and vision of the church he or she would like to serve.

Each committee member has read, evaluated, and then discussed with the group 59 PIFs. Of those, almost half were from women. Ten applicants were self-referrals. We then contacted those we considered a good match for our church. When there was mutual interest, we completed a telephone interview (eight, to date), requested and listened to sermon tapes, and checked references.

After a short break over the holidays, we are continuing our work. One face-to-face interview has been completed and we have identified several potential candidates for possible further contact. If we need them, another 84 PIFs are available to evaluate.

In the past seven months the PNC has spent many hours meeting, praying, evaluating, interviewing, checking references, and honing our skills in discernment and patience. We have learned that the process of choosing a new pastor is challenging, often frustrating, always interesting and rewarding.

Many people have asked if we are close to finding a pastor; the best answer we have is, “That’s possible! We’re making progress.” It’s also possible that many more months will pass before we can make the match that is right for our church. If that sounds discouraging, take a look at the Flow Chart for Calling a Pastor; you’ll see that the PNC’s work takes an average of 8 to 15 months, so while it may seem like a long time, we’re still well within the average. We will continue until we find the person we believe will serve our church with love, energy, and dedication and who has a strong sense that she or he is being called by God to First Presbyterian Church, Dixon.

We ask the congregation to pray for the work of the PNC and for the person who will be our next pastor. And we thank you for your patience.

Margaret Green, Chair
Paul Katner, Vice Chair
Chuck Jones, Secretary
Sheri Hill
Doug Krager
Tom Magdich
Marge Moine
Anna Schaefer
Susie Smith
Lance Schaefer, alternate