



July 14, 2021

Beloved in Christ,

I write to share with you an update on staffing issues for our church.

Last evening your Session received a recommendation from the Session Committee Chairpersons and the Deacon moderator regarding staffing needs as we move forward. That recommendation was approved and includes the following:

- Searching for an Associate Pastor to help in the vital areas of mission, adult education and ministry to younger adult individuals and families along with weekly worship participation.
- Increasing for 2-year period our Education Director's weekly hours from 20 to 34 so that she may rebuild the youth program that has suffered from multiple challenges including the suspension of meetings during the pandemic.
- Searching for a 1-year, 10-hour per week tech/social media support person who can help us sort out our livestreaming issues and facilitate our use of social media including our website, Facebook and the Monday morning information email started by Don.

Session believes these three staffing moves are essential as we work to nurture our congregation and reach out beyond our church in concern for others. A review by our Finance Committee has determined that these expenses are within our pre-COVID personnel budget.

The search team for the Associate Pastor includes: Sam Anderson-Chair, Jeff Kline, Lin Ewing, Nancy Sloan and myself ex officio. After an orientation by the Rev. Brian Wallace, Associate Minister of Pittsburgh Presbytery, our search team will begin its work. Because we are searching for a Covenant Associate Pastor who will be hired by the Session on a contract basis, it is our hope the position will be filled by October 1st.

Lastly, the search team for a new custodian (after Dale's retirement at the end of September) is well underway. The custodial search team members include: Sam Anderson, Janice French, Mac McLaurin and myself ex officio. The position has been posted widely, resumes have been received, telephone interviews have been conducted and in-person interviews are scheduled for next week.

The Lord has blessed our congregation with dedicated and talented members. We affirm that we are blessed to be a blessing. Please remember in prayer these leaders and their efforts to be a channel of God's grace.

Yours in Christ,

Steve