

11/13/22

Update from Session:

Last Sunday we heard Dr. Patton tell us to “think outside the box, or throw it away.” On Monday, Session met with our moderator Pastor Krista Kiger, our COM liaison Reverend Paul Davidson, and Reverend Dale Jackson the Presbyter for Vision and Leadership so they could bring us an “out of the box” proposal from Heartland’s Commission on Ministry.

Heartland’s COM recognizes that there are many churches looking for interims and installed pastors and not enough of either to fill the openings. The COM is implementing a new strategy, as of their November meeting, to help with the pastoral search process. They approved 2 churches to be a part of a pilot program. The COM had a checklist of requirements that us and 1 other church met and are what they consider to be a healthy church. Monday, Session members were asked to consider being a part of the pilot program, which would allow us to go straight to the search for a permanent pastor, without first attaining an interim.

After much discussion the Session voted to dissolve the Interim Nominating Pastor Committee and accept the COM’s proposal to pilot this new program and begin the search for an installed pastor. We feel very blessed to be noticed by the Presbytery as a church in good standing and feel honored to be allowed to do this. The elders feel we have been thorough in our efforts to find an interim and now our efforts can be spent finding an installed pastor. Our church is in a good place and we are ready for a pastor.

What does that mean for our church now? We will have a few more months of Pulpit supply, which we would have had anyways, while the nominating committee works on filling a PNC slate. We will then have a congregational meeting to approve the PNC slate and begin searching for our next pastor as soon as possible! We were given the option to hire a “Bridge” Pastor who could serve the congregation on a part-time basis for up to three-months. They would be a more consistent presence not only during worship, but in the church occasionally. The Session will continue to discuss that option as we move forward.

We feel the Holy Spirit is guiding us towards the right Pastor for our church. We strongly feel that by putting up our sails and trusting in the Holy Spirit’s guidance that we have been led to this opportunity. Your elders will continue to work diligently, in prayer and action, as we sail through the next steps in this process.

Please reach out to your elders if you have questions.

Thank you.