

What is the process as you transition from me being your pastor to calling a new pastor?

As I get ready to leave you for my new call, you will enter into a transitional period. Here are some of the things that will happen before your next installed pastor arrives.

First some terminology will be helpful. You will hear these in the next months and year.

COM – Commission on Ministry of Heartland Presbytery. This is the commission (committee) that assists churches in many areas, one of those being transitions.

MIF – Mission Information Form. This is the form that the Session will complete as they search for your Interim/Transitional Pastor. Then when the PNC is formed, they will update the MIF and submit it so that it may be used to find your next installed pastor.

PIF – Personal Information Form. This is the form that pastors complete when they are looking for a new call. This is similar to a resume.

PNC – Pastor Nominating Committee. This is the committee that will be nominated by the Nominating Ministry team and elected by the congregation to search for your next installed pastor. This committee will be nominated and elected once the Transitional Pastor begins and COM agrees that we are ready to begin the search.

Interim Pastor – This is a pastor who comes and walks with a church as they go through the transitional period between pastors. Sometimes the Interim is called a Transitional Pastor. There is a school of thought that the term interim denotes a “place holder” mentality, which means the church is just waiting until their next installed pastor arrives. Some feel that a better title is Transitional Pastor because this names where the church is at in their life and ministry, but it also denotes that work, mission, and ministry is still happening. No matter the title given to the person who will come and help us, you are the church and you will continue to do the work that God is calling you to, no matter who is walking beside you as pastor. Remember that Jesus is the captain of the boat, not the pastor, the pastor is another sailor working alongside you.

Please be assured that God continues to be at work in the life of this church body. The Holy Spirit is faithful and will lead you forward. You have an incredible Session that is already working hard to discern who your transitional pastor will be. Your job now is to:

- trust God
- trust your Session
- support one another, especially your Session
- not to sit back and wait, but to continue the work God has called you to
- pray, pray and pray - prayerfully discern what God is doing in the life of this church
- live with the hope and expectancy of who God is calling as your next installed pastor
- devote yourself to each other and God, coming together in fellowship, studying God’s word, community, and pray

The next step is for the Session to prayerfully discern who God is calling to be your transitional pastor.

Thank you for the privilege of being your pastor. I have been truly blessed and will miss each of you.

In Christ’s Love, *Pastor Mark*