

Jan. 10, 2025

Hello Friends,

Your session met on Monday evening with Kristal Smith from Presbytery moderating the meeting, and Kelly Jones from the Commission on Ministry.

Following our exit interview with Kelly, prayer led session into a conversation around what needs to happen currently to meet the needs of our congregation, and then addressed the more challenging conversation about next steps.

There are some clear processes in place within the PCUSA to follow once a pastor leaves a church. These include:

- Time of reflection and self-evaluation
- Discernment by all the people of the church as to who we are in Christ and what is the mission of our church.
- Discerning the need for a full or part time interim pastor
- Creating a church profile, which is to be uploaded to a site allowing us to put a call out for an interim pastor.
- Create a committee to interview and find an interim who fits our needs. This process is currently under discussion based on the fact of 14 churches needing interims in the Presbytery with only 2FT and 1PT interim tentatively available.
- Based on discussions with our members, nominate and form a Pastor Nominating Committee made up of members from our church.
- Allow the PNC to conduct a search for a new pastor

Through all of this there is a great need for prayer. We all need to be praying for...

- Those who are currently meeting the needs of our church members.
- The Deacons, who will be reaching out to their parish family groups with the hope of filling the gap of the pastoral care needed.
- The staff to work in unison to provide the critical needs necessary to allow us to feel welcome, safe, comfortable, and blessed worshipping God.
- The Trustees, who see to the nuts and bolts of keeping our church campus running and a beautiful spiritual site for all to worship within and on it's campus.

- The Elders, who will be listening to God first and foremost as we prepare, search, and plan for a new pastor.
- You, the members of this church to listen, hear, and trust where you are being called by the Holy Spirit. You may be called into a role you never envisioned yourself taking, but trust our God has prepared you and will guide you.
- The Interim, who may be called to work with our parish.
- The Pastor, who is currently aware or unaware of our existence, but will someday walk by our side as well as lead through Christ

We plan to provide updates regularly, even if it is to say nothing new has happened. We will keep you updated of the committees being formed, and ask you to share, in a positive manner, what is on your heart, what your needs are, how we can better serve you, and if you feel called to serve.

We are also planning to host some congregational listening times, and we will share details as they become available.

You are invited to contact myself, or the church office with any needs moving forward. For a list of Staff, Elders, and Deacons, please visit the [staff page](#) of our website. (Scroll down to view the elders and deacons.)

We are asking for patience and prayer, as we move forward.

Cheri Kearney  
Clerk of Session