

## MARTIN DUNLAP – PNC MINUTE MESSAGE 06.27.2010

The Presbyterian tradition of calling a Pastor is one that can lead to many questions like “what has the committee been doing”, “what’s taking so long!” We thought we would give the Morningside congregation an overview of our work thus far. First, I would like to introduce the members of our committee: Anne Barnette, Ellen Brown, Jennye Guy, Sarah Brownlee, Michael Perez and Greg Morton).

After the committee was elected last Fall, we began our work in January in conjunction with Joanna Adams’ retirement. Our first piece of work was taking your feedback through the listening sessions to create our Church Information Form (or CIF) – that was completed and approved by the Session and the Presbytery on February 15th. The information from the listening sessions drove the process of creating the Church Information Form, and is a constant resource for us as we consider candidates.

Since our Church Information Form was posted on the Leadership Connection website through the Presbyterian Church USA website – it has been viewed over 1,000 times. We have received Pastor Information Forms through the website and also directly to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). As of today, we have received and reviewed numerous self-referral Pastor Information Forms – these are being submitted from outstanding candidates throughout the United States, and we continue to receive them from interested candidates. The committee does not rely solely on people approaching us; we are also actively reaching out to those whose names have been provided by you. We have also talked to, and consulted with, friends of this congregation, as well as knowledgeable and well-respected leaders within our presbytery and denomination for additional people we should consider. We are excited about the level of interest in this call, and the quality of the candidates who are applying.

While we continue to encourage additional Pastor Information Forms and names from the congregation, we have requested audio sermons and paid visits to church’s of potential candidates when PIFs have been of interest to the PNC. In addition, we have had the opportunity to have preliminary, one-on-one conversations with several candidates.

We feel we are making steady progress and working within the average time-frame of a PNC, which is 12-18 months. We meet each Sunday at 4pm and the committee is very dedicated, focused and full of energy. We recognize the low key, quiet process of a PNC can seem rather awkward to a congregation given the limited amount of information the PNC can provide until the new Pastor is called. I can assure you that we are being guided by the spirit – opening every meeting with scripture reading, devotional and prayer – keeping our hearts and minds open to the will of God.

You may have noticed that members of the PNC have been absent from Church on several Sundays this summer – and that will continue in the coming weeks. Please continue to keep the PNC in your prayers, both for safety during times of travel and for guidance and direction as we discern God’s will for the future Pastor of our congregation.