

From the Pastor Transition Team

September 10, 2023

Recently, Session appointed a Transition Team – consisting of Tom Davis, Debbie Erdman, Patty Oberg, Bert Denny, and Denny Bender– to facilitate a smooth progression from now through the installation and early tenure of our new Senior Pastor.

The Team has been actively supporting Stan as he plans for retirement, preparing church staff for new leadership, and working in coordination with the Pastor Search Committee.

Back in February there was a belief - in hindsight an overly optimistic belief - that it was feasible, with God's expedient help, to conclude the search process in time to have a new Senior Pastor identified, and perhaps even installed, by Pastor Stan's departure.

Even with the devoted hard work of the Pastor Search Committee, it has become clear that we underestimated the time required and the availability of qualified candidates. Therefore, Session has approved a plan to seek out and hire a Transition Pastor to be in place in January after Stan retires.

Our denomination has seasoned pastors who have been trained and have experience in leading churches during times of transition. The Ministerial Committee of the Great Plains Presbytery strongly encouraged Eastminster to take on a Transition Pastor and has suggested a process and candidates to engage. This is not a new practice. Many of you will recall Rev. Bob Hopper who served Eastminster on an interim basis and was such a blessing to our church. This is much the same situation.

The Transition Team will be interviewing pastors who have experience in this capacity and are available to be in residence at Eastminster in January.

If you have questions about this plan, you can see any of the Transition Team members. Even better, attend one of the Listening Circle meetings scheduled next Sunday between and following worship.

In the meantime, we ask that you continue to pray for our dedicated and loyal staff, Pastor Stan, for the Session, and for the search committees as we all seek to discern the plan God has for our church. We are confident He will work His plan in His timing and to our benefit and His glory. Thank you.