



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

305 EAST MAIN STREET • DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA 27701 • 919-682-5511

Dear friends,

February 2025

On **March 9 and March 16**, we will have a congregational meeting following worship. The congregation is required to meet at least once annually. They also meet when they need to:

- 1) Elect new deacons, elders, and nominating committee members;
- 2) Vote to call a pastor or associate pastor;
- 3) Vote on changes in the terms of call for all pastors (if there are changes);
- 4) Elect pastor/associate pastor nominating committees (PNCs/APNCs);
- 5) Vote on the buying or selling of property;
- 6) Hear information relevant to the life and ministries of the congregation.

At the **March 9th congregational meeting**, we will hold our **annual meeting**, which includes the following:

- 1) The election of new deacons, elders, and nominating committee members (recommended nominees will be presented the week before from the nominating committee with photos and bios of the nominees);
- 2) A presentation of the 2025 annual budget from the stewardship and finance committee chairs, Jon Abels and Al Arrowood, respectively.

In addition, I will give a “State of the Church” address looking back at 2024 and forward to 2025. I will include an update on the Building Beloved Community Capital Campaign and Renovation and Expansion Project. The **August 2023 - July 2024 annual report** will be available online by that date, and a few hard copies will be available for those who need them.

At the **March 16th congregational meeting**, the **FPC Associate Pastor Nominating Committee** (elected by the congregation on Sunday, November 17) will present their candidate, along with the terms of call (salary, housing, and benefits) for the position of Associate Pastor. Currently, Esther Hethcox serves as the Designated Associate Pastor. The Presbytery of New Hope Commission on Ministry (COM) approved her in this designated position for a two-year term, with the understanding that FPC would do a search for a candidate to fill a permanent position. The COM allowed for Esther to apply for this permanent position. The members of the APNC are Emily Barré, Sam Brown, Caroline Means, Lanny Pratt, and Walker Winslow-Stephenson. Adrienne Allison and Eric Wiebe serve as co-chairs.

In all of this, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide our worship, our work, our prayers and our actions.

I hope you will be able to attend both meetings, as they are important to the life and ministries of First Presbyterian Church!

May God go with you and give you peace.

With love and gratitude,

Mindy