

Advent: Presbytery in Transition

Advent marks the beginning of the new Christian year and is the season of the church marked by hopeful waiting and preparing for what is yet to come. Advent is a time of transition. As a presbytery, the regional incarnation of the Church, we are living into the season as we begin the process of transitioning with hope and careful preparation for where God is leading us next.

A couple weeks ago at our November Presbytery Assembly, we celebrated Craig Howard's ministry with us and blessed him as he follows his call to be the Transitional Presbytery Leader with the Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery (St. Louis area). Council also shared that it formed a transition committee to help shape the processes as we seek a new Presbytery Leader to help continue the momentum forward. On November 29th Council met and approved the following processes in accordance with our Manual of Operations and Personnel Policies.



First, a **Transitional Presbytery Leader (TPL)** search has begun. The Council committee composed of Jeannette Bell, Sara Miles, Steve Seeker, Karen Barnes (convener), and Christian Boyd (ex officio-staff) will be overseeing the search and interviews, as well as suggesting a hire to Council at the next meeting on December 13th. We are looking for a Transitional Presbytery Leader to be in place by January 1st and serve for a period of 6 to 9 months (and month to month thereafter). Questions and resumes for the TPL position are due by Tuesday, December 6th at 8:00 pm and may be forwarded to the Rev. Christian Boyd, Stated Clerk (statedclerk@pbymilwaukee.org).

Second, a **search committee** is being formed by Council to begin the process of finding our **next called and installed Presbytery Leader**. The hope is for Council to appoint the members at its next meeting on December 13th. The Search Committee will be composed of 5 people (a mix of teaching/ruling elders and following the guidelines of the Committee on Representation (COR); 1 person from Council, 1 person from COM, 1 person from Personnel, 2 at large, with the Stated Clerk as the staff liaison and assistance from the Synod). The search committee will be responsible for creating a Mission Information Form (MIF), which the Council will approve, and submitting it to Church Leadership Connection for national circulation. The search committee will also be responsible for interviewing, negotiating terms of call, and bringing the nomination to the Council to be presented to the Presbytery for vote. The hope is that a MIF will be ready to be presented to Council in January and have a candidate before the Presbytery sometime after Easter. If anyone feels called to serve on this search committee, please forward your information to the Stated Clerk, also by Tuesday December 6th at 8:00 pm.

Finally, our goal as Council is to **model effective and helpful communication throughout this process**. We are grateful for this amazing presbytery and as the Holy Cow survey indicated, we affirm that this presbytery is on the cutting edge, seeking to move forward with what God desires for us. Therefore, we have designed a process that we hope, although slightly different from what we have pursued in the past, is more efficient and will keep our good momentum as a presbytery moving forward. We plan to be in regular communication with the presbytery throughout this time of transition, especially through this new section of the weekly "Fresh Impressions" newsletter. We invite your prayers, feedback, and suggestions in the coming months.

In shared ministry,

Rev. Christian Boyd, Stated Clerk

Rev. Ann Gibbs, Presbytery Vice-Moderator

Rev. Rob Ater, Council Moderator