

April 23, 2020

Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale,

Last week the Personnel team voted to lovingly but regretfully receive Robin McEachern's request for retirement. I have been in conversation with Robin since the first of the year when following Christmas he first came to me and said, "it's time." It was our hope that he could get through the choir's concert that was scheduled in late March and Easter before he announced his decision to retire sometime this June.

Personally, I am deeply saddened by his retirement for several reasons. First, he's Robin! Second, he is a skilled musician, conductor and choral leader that has blessed this church's worship ministry for a quarter-century. Third, he is an unspoken fourth pastor on this church's staff and cares for so many in this flock and in the choir. Fourth, I am sad as he has become a dear and trusted friend during my time at the church; his absence will be a presence.

So, what does all this mean? First, It goes without saying a fitting celebration will be held for him when we can gather once again as an entire community.

Next steps will include a few different items. The Session will need to approve a structure for securing the new Minister of Worship. The Personnel Team recommends that we use this COVID-19 downtime to appoint a team to formulate a job description for the position and begin a search process.

So, my friends, I leave you with the gratefulness of the wonderful leadership we each have received from our friend, Robin.

With Easter hope,

Patrick H. Wrisley
Pastor