Minute for Mission: Pastoral Update

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A transitional pastor is not just a temporary preacher; they are a trained and intentional leader who guides a congregation through a process of reflection and preparation for their next called pastor. This transitional period is a crucial time for a church to assess its identity and prepare for a vibrant future. This period of time can often last between two to three years.

Much of the work that has taken place over the last seven months you may not see day-to-day but is setting us up for a thriving future. A major focus has been reviewing and reshaping our operational structures. Karen has worked with the personnel committee who have interviewed all staff to ensure their roles are best aligned with the church's current and future needs.

At the same time, our committees are engaged in drafting charter statements to clearly define their scope. New teams have been formed: 1) to review and update the manual of operations; 2) to examine the governance structure and bylaws; and 3) to coordinate the 150th anniversary celebration. Ultimately, this work will ensure that our church is organized effectively and sustainably to fulfill our mission for years to come.

Other efforts have focused on ministry, mission, and community life at the church. Teams have been formed such as the Prayer Team that meets every Wednesday for 30 minutes to pray for the church and anything the Holy Spirit lays on them. Our team of Spiritual Directors are discerning what God might be calling them to be and do in the space of FPC.

We have added Minutes for Mission to the services and held a mission fair at the start of the fall programming, so that people can see what the community of faith is involved in - individually and as a congregation. Karen, Lindsey, and Dave work together on worship planning, and have done so with a mindfulness to the transitional work of addressing grief and building hope for the future.

A lot has happened over the last seven months, but many of you may be wondering about next steps and when a Pastor Nominating Committee will be formed. This time of transitional ministry is, of course, happening in parallel with the work of the Strategic Planning Committee which hopes to have clarity by the end of the year on what is happening with the building and campus.

Once more is known about that process, we can begin work with the Presbytery's Committee on Church Orders to do a formal Mission Study for the church that will have to be approved by both Session and the Presbytery committee. Only then can we elect a PNC who will begin the work of seeking our next called pastor.