

Report of the General Presbyter Search Committee
Presbytery of Tampa Bay
July 27, 2022
Jonathan Owen, Chair

The General Presbyter Search Committee came together in September 2021 tasked with finding the best candidate to fill the position vacated by Patrice Hatley with her retirement. The committee members include TE Loli Reiter, TE Sarah Bishop, RE Susan Sampson, TE Will Wellman, TE Lawrence Rush, RE Bill Trautwein and RE Jonathan Owen.

The committee created and launched a MIF in October 2021. In response to our MIF, we received 50 PIFs of interested candidates. Of those PIFs, we conducted preliminary interviews of 9 candidates and invited 6 back for second interviews through ZOOM. Of all these candidates, one rose to the top and we invited this individual to visit our committee in person and tour our Presbytery.

The proposed candidate spent two full days with members of the committee. During this time, they visited several churches, visited Beth-El Farm Worker Ministry and Cedarkirk, and spent time with our Stated Clerk at the Presbytery Office. This time also allowed for personal interaction with members of the committee and the opportunity for the candidate to answer further questions and to ask questions about our presbytery.

This candidate is the best choice for our opening due to experience in a very similar role in another presbytery, and as a minister or in other staff roles in churches ranging from 75 to 1700 members. We admired their connectedness to the larger church through presbytery-, synod- and denomination-wide service. We also felt this candidate's experience with and passion for Vital Congregations, Matthew 25 and Emerging Ministries initiatives will help our presbytery with meeting our goals.

Our candidate's philosophy of engaging in conversations, taking time to discern the proper path, and not making knee-jerk or rash decisions appealed to our committee. Their skills at listening, dialoging, investigation, and discerning will serve them well as they lead our Presbytery.

We have offered the call to this candidate which has been supported by the Commission on Ministry and the Coordinating Team. We seek support from the presbytery at large through election of our proposed candidate into the position of General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Tampa Bay.