



UPDATE 20  
08/15/2023  
What's Next?

As the summer rolls on, the Search Committee continues our sacred work. I have shared previously that we have been interviewing candidates and I thought this was a good time to share next steps with you.

Following our Zoom interviews, we will choose to interview candidate(s) in person. During the time we spend together, we will more fully explore our fit for one another. We will listen and learn more about each other. We hope to gain a deeper understanding of our shared values. We will introduce the candidate(s) to Julie and Paul. We will show the candidate(s) around our church building and around Greensboro. We will spend some informal time together.

In the traditional model, the Search Committee members would plan to worship with the candidate in a church setting. With so many churches offering online services, we choose to listen to sermons early on in our review process. Fortunately, we can listen to multiple services and sermons, so we have a deeper experience than we would have had we worshipped together once.

We heard clearly in our listening sessions the narrative style (storytelling and connecting Biblical text to current times) of preaching is valued by our congregation. Also, highly valued is the prophetic voice of our church and our Pastors. We are listening for these talents and values in our candidates as we conduct interviews and listen to worship services and sermons!

Following our in-person interviews, we will seek God's guidance and prayerfully make a decision on a candidate.

If the candidate we seek chooses to accept the Call, compensation and benefits package will be clarified, and a date for a "candidating weekend" will be established. The "candidating weekend" is a standard practice in mainline churches. This is the time we all have an opportunity to meet the candidate (and family) in an informal setting on Saturday and follow up with the Sunday worship service where the candidate will preach. A congregational meeting will follow and offers members an opportunity to ask questions of the Search Committee, and to vote on the Call to our new pastor.

I have been communicating with Council regarding compensation recommendations from the Southern Conference. I will continue to keep the Council apprised and I will provide an account of transition expenses.

If you have any questions about this next phase of the Call process, please reach out to me and I'll do my best to answer your questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued care of our committee members.  
—Robin Long