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George W. (Chip) Miller, Jr., Senior Pastor

August 20, 2025

Dear FPC Members:

You received a letter earlier this week from Chip Miller announcing his plans to step down as Senior Pastor until July 31, 2026.

Knowing it has been more than 30 years since our church last searched for a senior pastor, the Session thought it would be helpful if I described the process required from the Presbyterian Church in America **Book of Church Order (BCO.)**

The Session appointed a temporary **transition team** to deal with some preliminaries and logistical issues involved with a search before it presents to you its recommendations as to who should serve on the Pulpit Search Committee. The members of that transition team are Jerome Strickland, Mike Hall, Sam Jones, Paul Cable, Matt Kitchell, Lowry Tribble, William White, Bruce Leicht, and Julian Hutchins.

The Session will call a congregational meeting to **recommend a list of candidates to serve on The Pulpit Committee**. All congregational meetings require at least one week notice. BCO 20 -2 states the Pulpit Committee “may be composed of members from the congregation at large or the Session, as designated by the congregation.”

Upon approval by the congregation, the Pulpit Committee will carry out a comprehensive search for the next senior pastor. You can expect to hear periodic reports on its general progress so you can be informed, engaged, and prayerful during whatever time is needed.

BCO 20-2 states: “The pulpit committee shall, after consultation and deliberation, recommend to the congregation a pastoral candidate who, in its judgment, fulfills the Constitutional requirements of that office and is most suited to be profitable to the spiritual interests of the congregation.” Once a candidate is recommended by the Pulpit Committee, then the **congregation must vote on the recommendation**. If approved by the congregation, the candidate must be examined, approved, and received into Central GA Presbytery via ordination or transfer from another presbytery. Upon being received into Central GA Presbytery, a service will be scheduled at FPC to install the new senior pastor.

We are extremely grateful for our presbyterian form of government with its Biblical system of checks and balances. It can be tedious and overwhelming at times, but it is very stable and intentional. We need to begin praying now for the Lord's leading throughout the entire process.

Yours in Christ,

Samuel P. Jones
Clerk of the Session