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

September 25, 2025

Dear FPC Members,

The pulpit committee met for the first time Monday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, to begin the search for our next senior pastor. Thus far, we have received several questions about the process. We thought it helpful to go ahead and address some of those questions below:

- **How long will the search process take?** We don't know exactly. Consultants state that searches like ours typically take 9-24 months.
- **Since Chip's retirement date is 7/31/26, do we need a new senior pastor in place by 8/1/26?** Not necessarily. In some cases, it is recommended to have an interim period after the outgoing pastor departs and before the new pastor begins his ministry. Every situation is unique.
- **How does the process begin?** Our initial focus will be to develop a church profile as well as a pastor profile. Each profile will be shared with potential candidates. This gives details about our church and informs each candidate what we are looking for in our next senior pastor.
- **How often will the committee communicate with the congregation?** We will create a web page for updates and related information. You may also receive periodic updates via email. Some of our work is confidential, but our goal is to be as transparent as possible.
- **Will the committee recommend a slate of potential candidates to the congregation for consideration?** No, we are bound by the PCA Book of Church Order. Chapter 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."

From a human perspective, the task before us could feel overwhelming. However, we serve a sovereign God. He has known before the beginning of time who our next senior pastor will be. Be in prayer with us as we seek to discern His will. Pray continually for his wisdom and discernment as we, the committee, move forward.

In Christ,

Bruce Leicht, Chair  
Kevin Bridges, Vice Chair  
William White, Secretary

Iris Archer  
Chuck Duggan  
Matt Kitchell  
Kevin Lennon

Wynne Pearson  
Elizabeth Peed  
Jerome Strickland  
Martha Thompson