

Pastoral Search Committee Nominations

Jay Green, October 5, 2021

Dear Church Family,

Just a quick reminder that nominations for our Pastoral Search Committee remain open through next week (Wednesday 13 October at noon). I am reposting the recommendations from the Session that were approved at the congregational meeting a week ago last Sunday. There is a link you may use to make nominations electronically there. Let us know if you have any questions.

Pastoral Search Committee Nomination/Election Process - Session Recommendations - 26 September 2021

St. Elmo Presbyterian Church is in the middle of an exciting and significant period of transition in the history of our ministry together. God has been faithful to our community in the past. He remains present and faithful among us now. And He will guide us and sustain us as we move into the future He has planned for us.

After months of planning, preparation, and prayer, the Session of St. Elmo Presbyterian Church believes that our congregation is now ready to move forward in our search for a permanent senior pastor. We recommend that a search committee be formed with the purpose of writing a church profile, developing a pastoral profile, conducting a review of pastoral candidates, hosting virtual and in-person interviews, and ultimately recommending a candidate to the congregation for consideration and election.

We have a series of recommendations for beginning this process. The purpose of today's meeting is to give you the chance to hear these recommendations, ask any questions you might have, and, if desired, modify them. We will then ask members of the congregation to offer a vote of support for this plan.

We recommend that the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) consist of seven church members:

- Two ruling elders
- One member of the diaconate
- Two women
- Two at-large members

We recommend a process of nomination lasting just under three weeks (Sept 26-Oct 13 at noon) during which communicant members of the congregation may nominate other communicant members.

We recommend that members of the PSC include no married couples. (Note that married couples may be nominated, but a maximum of one member of each couple may serve on the PSC)

We recommend that no members of the PSC be under the age of 18.

Before making nominations or agreeing to be nominated, members of the congregation should be advised of what membership on the PSC may entail.

- The task of a Pastoral Search Committee generally takes 12-18 months to complete. It may not take this long. It might take more time.
- Being elected to the PSC should prompt members to make every effort to fulfill the obligation of service to the PSC as their highest church-related priority.
- The PSC should be committed to engage the task diligently and complete it with all deliberate speed. Therefore, members can expect to meet weekly for 1-1/2 to 2 hours.
- If one's church obligations are already very heavy, he or she probably should request to be relieved of some of those obligations until the work of the PSC is concluded.
- PSC members will spend a great deal of time evaluating candidate files, listening to sermons, assessing theological beliefs and other pastoral characteristics.
- PSC members must commit themselves to strict confidentiality throughout the process.

We recommend that nominations be made using the forms available at the back of the church. For church members that cannot make nominations in person, we recommend that nominations be made using this electronic form (see church email). **All nominees must consent to having their names advanced for consideration. Both nominators and nominees must sign the nomination form.** Nominations may be given to any elder, handed to Marylu during office hours, submitted electronically using the google form, or dropped in the offering plate. **The deadline for nominations is Wednesday October 13 at 12:00 pm.**

The Session will meet after nominations close to review the names put forward and construct a ballot of candidates for election.

We recommend that the members of St. Elmo Presbyterian Church re-convene for another congregational meeting on October 17 where a slate of candidates will be presented. Those present at the congregational meeting will vote on the slate presented at that time. This congregational meeting will be streamed live via the church's Youtube channel, and members who are unable to attend in person will be given a means of voting supplied on that day.