

Dear Fellow Congregants:

With very mixed emotions we learn of Rev. Dr. Schindler's retirement later this Spring. In part we will miss her quiet and thoughtful guidance over more than 10 years and especially during the challenges of the covid pandemic. And in part we celebrate her tenure and wish her well during her well-earned retirement. Her last day in worship will be on Pentecost, May 19, with time for farewell immediately after. We are so grateful for her service and wish her well in the years ahead.

With Rev. Dr. Audrey Schindler's announcement of her retirement at the end of May 2024, Session will take steps to ensure FPC will have pastoral leadership following her departure in three stages: bridging pastor, interim pastor and finally locating a successor to be the new pastor and head of staff. The bridging pastor shall sustain FPC until an interim pastor can be found, a process which might take six months or more.

To search for an interim pastor first requires permission from the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery. Session will seek an interim pastor whose major responsibility will be to assist the congregation and session in careful reflection and discernment about the key qualities desired in the permanent pastor as well as key goals of FPC, a Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP).

Once the discernment is complete, the congregation will elect the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to search for candidates who might best guide FPC for the next phase.

This whole process has begun. Session has identified Rev. Brenna Dykman to serve as bridging pastor and Acting Head of Staff beginning in June. Session will be asking the Committee on Ministry to grant permission to search for an interim pastor.

Regular updates will appear in the weekly bulletin, e-Blast and The Spire. Also, please note that Audrey is excluded from participating in the interim search process by the Presbytery.

We are grateful for Audrey's time with us as senior pastor and wish her the very best in retirement. Finally we are blessed with a time-tested process to search out a successor and pastoral guidance in the meantime.

Respectfully,



Jon Bates  
Chair, Personnel Committee