

PROGRESS IN THE SEARCH FOR A DESIGNATED ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Recent newsletters have provided updates on one of the exciting developments happening at Central. We are expanding our capacity and our staff! The Designated Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (DAPNC) worked diligently throughout December, holding video conference interviews with applicants, going through a careful discernment process, and then scheduling onsite interviews.

A recent newsletter featured the Central members serving on the DAPNC. In this newsletter, we want to highlight some of the preliminary work done by the presbytery and express our gratitude. One of the reasons the Session chose to move forward with the somewhat unusual "designated" process was the

potential for a much quicker search process than a more traditional search. In order for the search to proceed quickly, a lot of early legwork was done by a task force of the presbytery.

The presbytery's task force spent time learning about Central and our needs and hopes for this position. They then screened applications, looking for people with the right set of skills and traits, backgrounds and experience. Rev. Denise Dunbar-Perkins, a retired chaplain and former Moderator of the Presbytery, chaired the task force. Denise was tireless in communicating with every single applicant and with the task force members and with Central leadership. The Rev. Jeff Japinga, the Presbytery Executive, served on

the Task Force, and conducted an initial round of reference calls. The other two members of the task force were Kenneth Huskins, who had served on and even chaired previous Associate Pastor nominating committees for Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis and the Rev. Paul Moore, pastor for the Chain of Lakes church in Blaine. This task force read numerous applications, ranking candidates and meeting to discuss applicants before providing Central's DAPNC with a list of eight candidates deemed likely fits for our position. We are so grateful to Denise, Ken, Paul and Jeff for sharing their time, concern and wisdom!

The next step for Central? Interviews with the selected candidates. Stay tuned!

Thank you to our demo crew (Craig Foss, Todd Mikish, Jim O'Neill, Jeremy Berg, Carl Willis, and Pat Cook, under the supervision of Bill Zopfi) who dismantled our old copy room this past month in preparation for construction of a new office for the incoming Associate Pastor.

