

Pastor Search Committee Begins Work

by Rev. Paul Votaw

On June 25, 2017, you elected a Pastor Search Committee (PSC). Their task is to recommend an individual to become the next Pastor/Head of Staff at Westfield. When the PSC is ready to bring the candidate before the congregation, a congregational meeting will be called by the Session. The individual will preach and lead a worship service and the congregation will vote on whether or not to call the candidate as your next head of staff.

Those elected to the Pastor Search Committee are Keith Breuer, Pat Byers, Sonja Gettemy, Cyndee Patton, Ken Shiderly, Jr., Andy Shillingburg, Delta Stoner, Jill Trotter and Sam Vastano. Thanks to each of you for your willingness to serve in this capacity.

As part of the search the committee will develop a church information document and position description for potential candidates. A representative from Presbytery will work with the committee throughout the process, providing resources and guidance. The committee's work will be time consuming, detailed and confidential.

Confidentiality is a must for a number of reasons. First of all, it prevents rumors and speculation. Secondly, most candidates will be serving other churches and will not want word getting back to their churches that they are seeking another call. Thirdly, confidentiality minimizes the temptation for those outside the committee to offer opinions and advice. Please resist the temptation to get "inside information". They will provide regular updates to the congregation. When they have found someone they will inform the congregation.

The most productive thing we can do is pray for and encourage the Pastor Search Committee. Allow God to work in their midst and lead them to the person he is even now preparing for Westfield Presbyterian Church.

Thank you to David Schmolly, Sue McCurley, Debbie Liggett and the entire Nominating Committee for working so efficiently and well to put together an excellent search committee.