



March 24, 2016

Dear FPC Family,

Easter Greetings from your Session of First Presbyterian Church! Spring has begun in San Antonio - a time for renewed hopes and beginnings - and our church is making new, fresh changes.

First, we want to formally welcome Steve Walsh, our new Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care, who will be assisting Scott with his duties. Steve has been a long-time Army chaplain, having earned his Doctor of Ministry from Columbia Seminary. His wife, Lisa, currently spends time volunteering and working for the Boerne Independent School District. An adult son Michael works in California, their daughter Caitlyn is a sophomore at Schreiner University in Kerrville and their youngest son Joseph is a fifth grader at Fabra Elementary in Boerne, where they make their home. Please feel free to welcome him when you get to meet him!

The Session also voted to extend the term of our Interim Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Ron Scates through December of 2017, which is a six-month extension of the original renewable contract. The Session did this in order to maintain the stability of our leadership through our change in denomination. Ron and Anne are very happy about this! Towards the end of his contract, a Pastor Nominating Committee will be formed to search for our new permanent senior pastor, and Ron will be eligible to be considered for the position, among other potential applicants.

The Personnel Committee recommended that we need to start filling our Assistant Pastor positions. As a start, an Assistant Pastor Nominating Committee was formed, chaired by Holly Youngquist to look for either an assistant or an associate pastor of Christian Education/Discipleship "from cradle to grave." We have been encouraged by ECO to use new, fresh, and entrepreneurial leadership techniques, and during this committee's efforts they will also inform the Session of any other candidates who may be suitable for other positions, should they find a particularly desirable candidate. Please pray for the APNC and let them know if you have any leads on potential candidates.

Other committees are actively looking to fill slots, including: KEYS, which is looking for a replacement for Pat McLeary; Youth, actively looking for a replacement for Matt Fricker; and Local and Global Missions, who along with the Benevolence and Oversight Committee are looking for a Director of Missions to replace Alyssa Payne. Pray that God will direct the people He desires to fill these important slots.

We have been publishing our Session Bullet Points on our website and in our bulletins since last summer to keep you better informed. Please remember to check your bulletins, our website, and First Press newsletter for other exciting news as it happens. And – why not corral an Elder or deacon and ask them what’s up? They would love to talk with you!

As of Monday, March 21st, we have officially completed the process of finding safe berth in the faithful harbor of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians. We remain staunchly Presbyterian, Reformed, and Evangelical and rejoice in God’s providential care of our congregation. Many have remarked that a fresh and optimistic wind can be felt in our halls and pews, and we want every member to be an active part in this, another fresh springtime here at First Presbyterian, San Antonio, as we together serve our risen Lord!

**And the LORD will continually guide you,
And satisfy your desire in scorched places,
And give strength to your bones;
And you will be like a watered garden,
And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. Isaiah 58:11 NASB**

Earnestly in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Norton A. Stuart, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and a stylized "S".

Norton A. Stuart, III, MD
Clerk of the Session
First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio