

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Administrative Commission (AC) would like to thank you for submitting your thoughts and suggestions to us. We have prayerfully read and discussed each one. As you can imagine, there is much information to be sorted out and to discern. Thank you for your patience, as this is a difficult and time-consuming process.

We do recognize the importance of moving forward as quickly as possible. We are grateful for the ministry of your Bridge Pastor Rev. Dr. Kathi Wiggins, the Session, and the staff who are providing for the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church during these exceptionally challenging times. We hope to announce very soon that an excellent and caring full-time Transitional Pastor will be in place.

Several of you have asked what it means for the AC to "walk alongside you." Our Presbyterian form of government, as many of you may know, values the connectional and collegial relationships within a Presbytery. There are times in the lives of churches where the challenges and presenting issues are so complex and potentially divisive, that intentional efforts need to be made to assist congregations in restoring the peace, unity, and purity of their congregation. Our Administrative Commission was appointed by the whole Presbytery on June 2. We are pastors and elders from the Presbytery who bring no predetermined agenda to this work. We are doing our best to listen to as many voices as possible. In addition to listening to the congregation's input, we have met with every Session elder, and with every member of the staff. In our listening, we are aware that there are many different viewpoints about what will be best for First Presbyterian Church moving forward.

We are heartbroken with you about the pain and shock that has befallen FPC, and we seek to be faithful in the ways we can help you navigate the way forward. The Presbytery charged us with the decision of whether Rev. Kelly Fitzgerald returns to her ministry at FPC. We have heard many points of view about this decision, with many voices advocating for and against Kelly's return. We realize that healing will be needed whatever we decide. We want to be a part of that healing. Your Transitional Pastor will lead the Session in charting the future course for FPC, and we will offer support in whatever ways the Transitional Pastor and Session would like our assistance.

Thank you for your prayers.

In Christ,

Elder Rebecca Nicholson (AC chair) - Burnt Store Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Hope Lee (AC Secretary) - Kirkwood Presbyterian Church

Elder Stan Bucher - Buckingham Presbyterian Church

Rev. Chris Romig - Venice Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dr. Holly Wildhack - Westminster Manor