

For session meeting August 17, 2022 – report to be read by Nolan Huizenga

This is a brief update from the Pastor Nominating Committee. A member of the PNC will participate in Session meetings beginning in September. We already committed to an interview this evening and so cannot be with you tonight.

We have been meeting for more than a year now. The first few months were devoted to reviewing the mission study and other information about the church, discerning the qualities we are looking for in our next pastor and working with the Personnel Committee on the job description. All of this was incorporated in our Ministry Information Form. At the beginning of this year we began in earnest reviewing resumes and reaching out to source and talk with potential candidates. We held a number of initial zoom interviews and then some second interviews. Around Easter we invited three potential candidates to Louisville for two days of interviews. We extended an offer to one candidate who was very drawn to Highland but alas, he had two other offers and accepted one in a city in which his spouse, who has a significant career in a Presbyterian church, has better career prospects.

Undaunted, we continue our search. Kevin Burns continued to co-chair the committee until shortly before his death. Along with the whole congregation, we grieve his death and miss his wisdom and leadership. Linda and the committee are grateful to Martin Hall for stepping into co-leadership. We are grateful, too, to Nolan for assuming leadership of Highland at this time, believing that fresh leadership will be invigorating for the congregation, and that while we are all eager for the PNC to conclude its work, this gives us and the congregation some breathing room.

We continue to interview candidates by zoom. We have invited one candidate to town and have one or two others that we are considering for in person interviews. As we have said all along, we cannot predict when we will recommend an new pastor for a call, but please know that your PNC continues to work diligently and prayerfully.

As always we welcome communication from members of the congregation through our email highlandpnc2021@gmail.com