

Council Update on Transition

May 2, 2016

On April 21, the River Terrace Church Council appointed a transition team consisting of elders Susan Medendorp and Jim Nicholas, deacons Tim Blamer and Robert Geers, and congregants Donna Oade and Dave Vander Haagen. The transition team works with and for the Council to assist the church in the following areas:

- **Near-term preaching**—Identify who will preach from June 26, 2016 through arrival of full-time interim pastor.
- **Interim pastor**—Identify and recommend to Council a full-time interim pastor.
- **Hearing from congregation**—Determine how and when to hear from congregation.
- **Communication with congregation**—Communicate, via the Council, frequently and fully to the congregation, no less than once per month.
- **Interaction with staff**—Determine how best to hear from and communicate to staff.
- **Preparing for search for a new pastor**—Assist Council in laying the groundwork for a search committee, using guidelines from the denomination.
- **Identify potential search committee members**—Bring recommendation to Council.
- **Work with interim pastor**—Work closely with interim pastor on all tasks.
- **Classical oversight committee**—Meet with as needed, seek counsel on major decisions, keep apprised of progress.

The transition team met for the first time on April 28. They elected Tim Blamer as chair. Members of the team were appointed to take the lead in hearing from the congregation, communicating transition team progress to Council for communication to congregation, engaging the church in corporate prayer, and communicating with staff.

The denomination's Office of Pastor-Church Relations indicated that they felt none of the trained Specialized Transitional Ministers who are available would be a good fit for River Terrace Church. Therefore the transition team is working from a list of potential interim pastors who could fulfill this role. Thankfully, several team members personally know some of the pastors on this list, and are in the process of contacting them to see if they are willing to be considered. Because it is likely that an interim pastor may not be available before the end of summer, the team is approaching people who may be able to preach between June 26 and arrival of an interim. Preaching is already scheduled through June 19.

The transition team's next meeting is May 17. Please continue to pray for the transition team, Council, staff, Pastor Ken, and our church.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. Proverbs 3: 5-6