

# PROVIDENCE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH · EST. 1767

December 1, 2021

## For the Time Being

*Just a quick update from Pastor Fred with respect to PPC's current season of transition.*

PPC is the ninth church I've served as interim/transitional pastor. Of the eight previous churches, four are similar in structure to PPC. Based on this experience I estimate that, starting from when I arrived this past August, PPC's interim/transitional period will run in the ballpark of two years. Mindful of how the laughter of God can be prompted when we make plans, I still hope the following timetable is helpful!

1. The past few months have given me the opportunity to get a good sense of the lay of the land here at PPC. Thank you for welcoming me to serve your vibrant community of faith.
2. During the winter, time will be dedicated for the congregation at large to assess PPC's strengths and challenges, along with expectations for the future. This process began recently in a gathering of Elders and Deacons on November 20.
3. During the spring, time will be dedicated for:
  - a. collating all the information related to assessing PPC in order to develop a report on this information that can be used by a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC),
  - b. nominating a PNC.
4. By early summer, if the PNC is up and running, they should be able to:
  - a. have used the assessment information to develop a Mission Information Form (formerly known as a Church Information Form) that interprets PPC to potential candidates for Pastor and Head of Staff,
  - b. get the search underway.
5. Altogether, first reaching the point of getting the search underway should take a little under one year. Then from there, the search itself should take a little over one year.

Friends, if this feels a bit longish, remember that it's important for the congregation to take the time to do as thorough a job as possible assessing the state of PPC—not only for the sake of letting pastoral candidates know what kind of church you are, but also for the sake of you knowing what kind of church you are heading into the future. And taking the time to gather good information will, in the long run, help to make the search process run more smoothly.

For the time being, know that here at PPC the ministries, the congregation, the congregational leadership, and the work of the staff are in good and faithful shape.

Peace,  
*-Pastor Fred*