



ELECTING A PASTOR DURING A PANDEMIC: PART I

A Report from the Northridge Pastor Nominating Committee

April 8, 2020

<p>Do you have an update?</p>	<p>Yes! We have a wonderful Nominee. We are doing everything humanly possible to get her here for a congregational meeting and a vote. You will love her, and she is anxious to meet you. We have <u>much</u> to be grateful for.</p> <p>Unfortunately, the current shelter-in-place orders prevent the April 19th congregational meeting, vote, and celebration we had planned. As Jesus said, “the best laid schemes of Mice and Men often go awry.”</p>
<p>Jesus said that?</p>	<p>Well, no. But you get our point.</p>
<p>So what is Plan B?</p>	<p>In partnership with the Session, the new date for the congregational meeting, vote, and celebration is MAY 17th, which is Pentecost Sunday. The meeting and vote <u>will happen</u> on MAY 17th in one of two ways.</p> <p><u>Option 1 – Hope for the Best:</u> Hope springs eternal. We hope and pray our scientific and governmental communities will have the virus under control by MAY 17th, permitting us to worship and congregate together, in person. If so, we will have much to celebrate!</p> <p><u>Option 2 – Plan for the Second Best:</u> We know better than to predict what will happen over the next month. If we are not able to worship and congregate in person on MAY 17th, we intend to conduct a congregational meeting and vote virtually after online worship.</p> <p>Option 2 requires some additional work and planning on the part of the PNC, the Session, and the Presbytery. Once approved, we will give everyone PLENTY OF EASY-TO-UNDERSTAND INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE AND VOTE. <u>Do not worry.</u> If you can use a website or make a phone call, you’ll be able to participate.</p>
<p>Is all of this necessary?</p>	<p>Yes. We know you trust us, but we are a <i>Nominating</i> Committee. Under the PC(USA) Book of Order only the congregation has the power to call a pastor. To extend the call, we must find a way to meet and vote.</p>
<p>Can you tell us her name?</p>	<p>Not yet. Like you, our Nominee is safe, sheltering in place, but separated from her church in another city. Pastors do not ordinarily notify their congregations that they have accepted a new call until <u>after</u> the new congregation has voted.</p> <p>As we know, one church’s joy is another church’s sorrow, and we cannot imagine a worse time to learn that your pastor is leaving. So, we need to ask you (again!) to be patient as we extend some much needed grace to a sister church. We will be celebrating soon enough.</p>
<p>When would she start?</p>	<p>60 days after the vote. This will give her adequate time to tell her current church and to make arrangements to move. All the more reason why we are doing everything possible to meet and vote on MAY 17th.</p>