

T.T. Report to Board April 18, 2021

Transition Team Report
FCC Board, Apr. 18, 2021

Transition time in the church is a time for closure of the past, maintaining the life of the congregation, preparing for the future and calling new pastoral leadership. Our transition time has been complicated by the pandemic. The way we were doing things to keep the church going had to change. Staff and leaders have done a terrific job with that. The way we were doing community ministry had to change. Adjustments were made. The transition process had to be different. But we kept on keeping on. Now over a year has elapsed since the interim time began. And it is time to move onto the next step—the task of searching for and calling pastoral leadership.

A new search committee will be appointed by the church board to guide that task in accordance with the by-laws. The personnel committee is discussing models for staffing and is developing job descriptions. A profile describing the congregation and its hopes is being completed. That will also include the qualities, interest, skills and experience we will search for in pastoral leadership. The committee will continue to seek information from the congregation.

It appears that the amount of ministerial staff can be equivalent to 1 and ½ positions. This could take various forms—like one full time and one half time minister, or two ¾ time ministers, or other models. At this point there needs to be some flexibility on this as the search is being conducted.

Listening and discerning has shown that several values and focus of First Christian Church are still strong and our “Mission Statement” still rings true. We are a caring community, an open and welcome (inclusive) community, a working for justice community, a serving out reaching community, a theologically progressive community.

Yes, we have concerns before us to name a few:

- *The size and ages of the congregation.
- *The direction and shape of community ministry following the pandemic
- *The decisions we are called to make concerning the building.

But even these can be turned into opportunities.

Your transition team is grateful for everyone’s patience and input. As we begin this next step in the process we look forward to everyone’s continued participation with the search committee to guide us.

Respectfully submitted,

Chair, Dick Lauer

Members: Jennifer Harris, Eliza Drummond, Mary Robertson, Quinn Metzger,

Ex Officio: Amy Metzger, Rev. April Oristano, Rev. Jerri Handy