

September 17, 2017

In the Interim . . .

Where are we in the process toward a permanent pastor?

After seven months of work, we have completed the church mission study process and produced a report. It is available on the church website for viewing by members as well as candidates who will be applying for the position of Senior Pastor. To read the report:

<http://www.fpcmorganton.org/docs/Complete%20Mission%20Study%20Report%20Final.pdf>.

What is next?

- September: We presented our Mission Study Report to the Presbytery Committee on Ministry and received permission to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).
- October: A meeting of the congregation will be held to receive nominations from the Church Nominating Committee for the PNC.
- November: The elected PNC will do orientation and complete a Ministry Information Form (MIF) describing the congregation and skills desired in pastoral leadership.
- December: The Session will approve and submit the MIF so that in 2018 the PNC can start screening Personal Information Forms (PIFs) for candidates to interview.

Where are we in response to the hurricanes of 2017?

Hurricane Harvey: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) teams are working with congregations helping them respond to needs, even when churches themselves have been damaged. Jim Kirk, PDA associate for national response, says, "I'm so impressed with the level of engagement of Presbyterian communities of faith in areas impacted. We've seen everything from opening doors for shelter to providing space for essential needs and offering prayer and support."

Hurricane Irma: PDA teams are organized to go as soon as first responders receive clearance. Rev. Bill Neely is leader for a team which will be assessing needs in the Presbyteries of Peace River (Bradenton to Naples) and Tropical Florida (Miami and southeast Florida).

Your gifts to PDA's work can be made through First Presbyterian Church. See the article in *The Spire Light* about how you can help provide clean-up buckets. To date, \$5,827.85 has been donated for this important part of response. Thanks for your generosity!

Remember, interim means interval, but it does not mean slowing down. Let us keep praying and discerning. Let us keep growing and going.

It is a privilege to be on the journey with you,

Wanda Neely