

Your Elders Want You to Know

August 2010

We, the Session, are grateful for your prayers for us and for the body of Christ here at First Pres. Please continue to pray for us to hear and obey the guidance of the Lord.

Your Session is pleased to announce that we have a two phase plan for filling our interim pastor position. We have called Rev. Robert Hopper to be our (Phase 1) short-term interim pastor. He has the unique quality of having helped a church heal from their pastor's suicide. He starts on August 22. He will serve our congregation for about 10 to 12 weeks during which time we will continue to seek our permanent (Phase 2) long-term interim pastor. Rev. Hopper will be at First Pres Sunday through Tuesday of each week. His preaching focus will be on the healing of our congregation, as he comes alongside our pastors and staff, and works with Session. He comes highly recommended by the EPC and by those with whom he has worked. We are delighted to have him.

Thank you to the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee for their many meetings, prayers, and thorough discernment in finding the (Phase 1) pastor, Robert Hopper, for our interim pastor position. Please pray for Andy Bergstrom, John Ellenberger, Emily Dull, Lisa Goodell, and Mark Ford as they continue serious conversation with a qualified individual who they hope will fill the role (Phase 2) of long-term interim pastor.

Kevin Reimer continues to consult with and support the pastoral and program staff. His pastoral and psychological training and experience is a great resource to us. We are grateful for his availability in this consultant capacity.

Please keep praying for deep refreshment for our pastors, David Abdo and Lana Roberts. David has returned and Lana leaves for 3 weeks starting August 9.

We are blessed that Craig Blodgett has assumed the position of Youth Director. Sarah Meisner has returned from vacation to assume her High School Intern position, but we are still looking for a Junior High Intern. This is a 2-year, part-time internship position. Please pray that this position is filled soon.

The Jamie and Kristy Evans Children's Educational Trust is in effect. This gives Kristy access to funds for the care and education of Nate and Kelly. Additional funds can be added to the trust indefinitely through the church office.

Dennis DuPertuis, Chair, and the Nominating Committee, are forming a Senior Pastor Search Committee. They are nearing the completion of a proposed Search Committee to put before the congregation for a vote in the near future.

We are available to you as Elders to answer any questions you may have and to listen to your concerns. We will be at the Elder Conversation Table on the church lawn next Sunday, August 15, after and between services. It's been good to talk face to face.