

(Sent via Prayer/Info email on 01/17/20)

Greetings and Happy New Year from the Ruling Elders,

2020 promises to be an exciting year in the life of Trinity! The elders still intend to seek a transitional pastor to assist us in filling the gap between Bob's retirement and the calling of the next pastor. We have continued discussing the transitional position and have received some wisdom and guidance from other members of the presbytery, pastors who have served or are serving in that role, and other churches who have recently completed a pastor search. We are even more convinced of the benefits of having someone come in who is skilled in serving a church through this season of transition. Beside the necessary duties of shepherding and teaching, someone with fresh eyes can provide an objective evaluation of our "personality" and needs as a church.

We have also continued to hear testimony of examples of pastors who have struggled when following the retirement of the long-serving, beloved pastor. Often, the new man struggles to find his place in the church as its people are still processing the change and, sadly, it leads to another search process. Bob's retirement will affect the people of Trinity in a thousand different ways. We are convinced that allowing time to process and deal with the emotion and consequences of that change will benefit the church and help prepare us for who the Lord calls to serve in the future.

At this point, we don't have any more concrete details to share with you. We have approached two potential candidates, one local and another that is currently serving as a transitional pastor in another part of the country. The local candidate has accepted another position already but did recommend some other possible candidates and gave some good advice about conducting our search. We are still in discussions with the second man and will provide another update if things progress. We are hoping to find someone that is a good fit for this specific transitional role and is able to start near or shortly after Bob's last preaching Sunday at Trinity.

As we work through this process, we covet your prayers for us and for wisdom and patience for all of the people of Trinity. Also, please feel free to share your thoughts on the search process or any other concerns or shepherding needs you may have. We look forward with great anticipation to how the Lord is going to work in his people this year at Trinity. It's important for all of us to remember, amidst the coming season of change, that our hope is in heaven and that we can wait on and trust in the Lord and his timing.

In Christ,

Ruling Elders:

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