Dear members and friends of Wayne Presbyterian Church,

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is delighted to introduce our nominee for Senior Pastor and Head of Staff, Reverend Ryan Balsan. We are thrilled that after much work, discernment, and prayer, God has revealed to us a warm, inspiring, intelligent, humble, and faithful servant to lead Wayne Presbyterian Church into our next chapter of ministry.

Reverend Balsan comes to Wayne from First Presbyterian Church of Ambler in Ambler, PA, where he has served as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff for over 13 years. Wayne will be his fourth call in his 25 years in pastoral ministry. He has held various leadership positions in the Philadelphia Presbytery, and he has been a member of a Covenant Group of Pastors for 24 years, demonstrating his deep commitment to clergy support and development.

**PNC process and priorities**

The PNC members agreed that our ideal candidate would demonstrate a genuine, personal love for Jesus Christ, challenge our congregants on their faith journeys, deliver compelling, scripturally-based sermons to engage a diverse congregation, exhibit innate pastoral gifts, demonstrate a collaborative approach to all aspects of church management, and have a compelling, engaging personality.

We are blessed and thrilled that God has provided a candidate that possesses all of these qualities, and more. Along with his teaching and preaching gifts, Ryan has a unique focus on spiritual and organizational leadership that is critical for leading today’s church. We were particularly impressed by his combination of spiritual gifts, leadership skills, and relational approach to ministry, which distinguished him as the top candidate to lead WPC into the future.

For details about our extensive search process, visit our page at bit.ly/PastorSearchUpdate.

**Introducing Rev. Ryan Balsan**

The best way to introduce Ryan may be to let him introduce himself through his own words from his pastoral profile: “God is calling me to a congregation that seeks innovative, creative, and daring ways to serve one another and the community in Jesus’ name. One of the best ways to build this kind of community is through engaging, faithful, biblical preaching. Thoughtful preaching starts conversations, guided by scripture, that lead to congregational transformation. I have learned to ask, ‘What have we learned?’ rather than, ‘Did that work?’ This shift generates creative, experimental, and more collaborative ministry.”
Background, Interests and Family
Ryan was born and raised in the Midwest and has lived in Philadelphia and New Jersey for most of his adult life. He earned a degree in political science from Penn State and after graduation served as a youth director at the Great Valley Presbyterian Church in Malvern. He then earned his Master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary.

Since he arrived at First Ambler, Ryan has been active in the Philadelphia Presbytery, serving on the Personnel Committee, including four years as Chair, as well as the Committee on Preparation for Ministry and the Committee on Nominations.

When he’s not at church, Ryan follows Philadelphia Sports teams, reads, aspires to be a regular at the gym, collects vinyl records, watches Netflix, cooks, and spends time with his family. He has been married to Jennifer (Jen) for 30 years and they have four grown children: Caleb, Clare, Isaac, and Marc. Jen is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Behavioral Health Consultant at Esperanza Health Center in Kensington. She has a special interest in working with teenagers and practiced social work in school settings with at-risk adolescents for many years.

Next Steps
Knowing that all are excited to meet Ryan, we will hold a Meet & Greet reception on Saturday, July 13 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel. Then we urge all members to attend worship on July 14 to hear his candidating sermon, followed by a congregational meeting where we will vote to call the candidate as an installed pastor, approve the terms of call, and dissolve the Pastor Nominating Committee, if the way be clear.

All members and friends are invited to the service and meeting, though non-members will not vote. Then we hope all will join us for a special coffee hour reception to officially welcome Ryan into our community of faith.

Ryan will conclude his current ministry over the next two months, and he will officially begin his work at WPC on September 9.

Words of Gratitude
The members of the PNC are grateful to all who have encouraged us and prayed for us over the past 12 months. Your prayers and support strengthened and inspired us. We are especially grateful to Buff Barnes who joined us on occasion to facilitate special prayer and discernment meetings at key junctures as our work progressed. Thank you all for trusting us to present the nominee for the next leader of our beloved church. It has been an honor and privilege to serve.

In Christ,
WPC Pastor Nominating Committee

Sal Ambrosio, Chair          Weezie Duff          Wendy Norman
Martin Akram                Mike Dziedziak       Kevin O'Neill
Pam Clark                    Jennie Hagin         Sarah Ziegler
Clyde Diehl