

We have a new pastor!
Rev Stephen E. Beard



Call Committee Timeline

Date	Activity
Sept 2024	Reverend Cathy notified the Board that she would be retiring Sept 2025.
Oct 2024	Brad Munroe (with the Presbytery) met with Board to provide information regarding finding a pastor
Nov 2024	Call Committee members identified. Jan Stegmann asked to chair the committee. Information from Brad Munroe transferred to Jan S.
Dec 2024	Call Committee Kick-Off meeting. Weekly Call Committee meetings scheduled thereafter. Conversations with consultants.
Jan 2025	Listening sessions with congregation planned and executed.
Feb 2025	Listening session data summarized and posted. Position posting created. Places to post researched. Desired attributes list created.
Mar 2025	Position posted on 3 websites, 3 job boards, newsletters, various ecumenical leaders contacted to share the posting. Interview questions created/reviewed/revised.
April 2025	~70 applicants received/reviewed. First interview with Rev Steve Beard on April 28. Online sermons viewed by Call Committee.
May 2025	Rev Steve Beard's references checked. Two Call Committee members attended services at Rev Steve Beard's church. Second interview May 21.

Call Committee Members

- Keith Betcsh
- Debbie Etcheson
- Jan Stegmann, chair
- Erly Wallman
- Jan Weinberger

- Earlier members:
 - Nancy Lowe
 - Rod Muilenburg
 - Tim Gabrielse

Steve Beard's Background Information

- Most recently Sr. Pastor at Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Scottsdale
 - 14 years
 - ECO – A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians
- Steve's father was a pastor in San Diego
- Married to Julie
- Lives in Cave Creek ~20-30 minutes from RV
- 3 children
 - Son 30 yrs. old, special needs living in group home
 - Daughter attending Princeton Seminary
 - Daughter attending ASU – Barretts in Finance
- Avid golfer

First Interview – April 28

- Steve and his wife Julie felt that a change could be in their future and put together a list of attributes they would look for in a future church home.
- While on a mission trip in Egypt, Steve saw our job posting and was drawn to it
 - In the late 90's, his father headed the SW Leadership Foundation. Community Church of the Verdes donated to it. Very few churches were involved.
 - Our involvement with Thrive caught his attention as this is a program his wife Julie has worked with and is near and dear to them.
 - Our posting seemed to fit what he and Julie were looking for.
- The first interview included a tour of the campus. Steve's wife Julie also came for the tour.
- Steve's responses to all interview questions were what the Call Committee was hoping to hear.

Second Interview – May 21

- Prior to the second interview, 3 references provided feedback. All very positive
 - References felt Steve is ready for a change
 - A 55+ community would be a good fit
 - Steve is an outstanding mentor, teacher
- Prior to the second interview, two Call Committee members attended Rev Beard's church and were impressed with the service and message.
- At the second interview, we arranged a "meet and greet" with 5 Board members
 - To provide a brief explanation of their role on the Board as part of the church's leadership team.
 - The opportunity for Board members to meet Rev Beard.

The Call

- At the end of the interview and after Rev Beard left, the Call Committee ***unanimously*** agreed to recommend to the Board that they call Rev Steve Beard.
- The Call Committee believes he is an extremely good fit for our church and we are a very good fit for him and his family.
- Rev Beard shared that he and his wife Julie also feel called to serve at the Community Church of the Verdes.
- The Call Committee met with the Church Board to recommend Rev Beard as our next pastor and the Church Board approved the recommendation.

The Call Committee believes that God has answered all of our prayers to draw His chosen one for our church to us and provided us with clarity and unity in our search.

Next Steps

- Rev Beard will be joining us September 7.
- Installation is tentatively planned for November 9.
- We will be preparing opportunities for you to meet Rev Beard and Julie and for them to get to know our Community.

Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for a smooth transition.