

June 5, 2019

Dear Federated Family and Friends,

Our Pastor Nominating Committee is very excited to present to you, on behalf of this congregation, our nominee, whom we believe God has led to us, the Reverend Dr. Jonathan Scanlon. We are satisfied with Reverend Scanlon's qualifications for ministry and are confident in his readiness to lead us in our mission and vision.

Please plan to join us on Saturday, June 22nd between 2:00 and 4:00pm in Rees Hall, when you will have an opportunity to meet Reverend Scanlon and his wife Joanne. They both very much look forward to meeting you. In addition to time to 'mingle', we plan to ask Reverend Scanlon to share some personal remarks a couple of times during the reception. Light refreshments will be served. On Sunday morning, June 23rd, he will preach the sermon during our 9:30 service. The service will be followed by an important congregational meeting. Regular Sunday attendees and members are encouraged to attend the meeting; but only current members will be given a ballot.

Our PNC met weekly beginning late last September, compiling our MIF (Ministry Information Form). Beginning early in January, we received and reviewed 25 Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from individuals seeking or open to a new call. 8 of those individuals were self-referrals, of which our nominee is one. Reverend Scanlon ranked in the top 5 of PIFs that we intended to interview. Of the 5 chosen for interview, only 3 individuals were available (one did not respond to our invitation, the other had just committed to a one-year interim position). 2 of the 3 interviewed provided recorded sermons (or links to sermons on-line). After listening to sermons from both of these individuals, it was discerned that only Rev. Scanlon satisfied our screening criteria. Discerning that he might satisfy both "call and fit" for our congregation, we unanimously chose to move forward with a more focused screening over the past few months. Rev. Scanlon provided lengthy written answers to follow up questions posed by the committee. He in turn, sent us specific questions about our church and congregation. The final phase of screening of course – visiting our nominee in person in the neutral pulpit situation -- provided the opportunity for all of us to speak on a more personal level. Reverend Scanlon has met with Presbytery representatives. His references have been contacted by members of our committee as well as our Executive Presbyter, Brad Munroe. A formal background check has been

completed as well. The PNC plans to present our final report at the congregational meeting on June 23.

You will find enclosed, Rev. Scanlon's Statement of Faith. Many of the PIFs we read, scored lower in our ranking as we discerned a less progressive theology than would match with Federated Church. Reverend Scanlon's scored high in that category. He also scored high in a second very important category: 'Describe the ministry setting to which you believe God calling you'. To this, he begins his answer:

"I hope to serve a congregation as committed to the homeless and outcast as it is to the privileged. It would be an active congregation energized through worship, thoughtful in its application of scripture, and compelled to reach out into the community through service....".

Here is a brief excerpt of his lengthy response to our question regarding how to address the needs of young families and increase their participation in the life of church:

".....While we are over-programmed and globally networked through technology, we are living in a time where people are feeling isolated and starved for community. The church will reestablish its relevance by offering the chance to be a part of a family of Christian Formation in an ever isolating, broken, and fearful world. As members of the body of Christ, we offer a hope and fulfillment that no other opportunities in our lives can provide in the same way.... Finally, and perhaps most importantly, providing childcare and children's programming is essential to future participation and commitment. Providing a safe and educational opportunity for children and youth may encourage their parents to be more open to participate themselves."

The process of screening is established for the PNC to select just ONE candidate to present to the congregation. We realize that here in this correspondence and over a brief meeting on the upcoming weekend, you as a member of the congregation are only getting a glimpse of the person that we, the PNC have carefully and prayerfully selected. As a committee, we unanimously have chosen this candidate to present to you and trust that you will support our nomination of Reverend Scanlon to be our next pastor.

The PNC would like to thank:

- Presbytery Executive, Brad Munroe for allowing us to participate in an accelerated process, approving for Pastor Jessica Goad to continue for one year as interim.
- Our advisors, Mr. Cecil Patterson, (presbytery liaison), Clayton Cobb (Bd. Of Pensions rep)
- Mr. Bob Schulz, presbytery stated clerk, for answering many questions, providing support and advice.
- The Federated Self Study Team (Jane Behrens, Rich Boyd, Lynn Burch, Tony Merriman, Shaun McKernan). Without this document having been completed, the PNC's work

would surely have been delayed. We were very grateful to have been able to ‘hit the ground running’, with this document ‘in hand’ in September.

- To Mr. Shaun McKernan, Federated’s office administrator for his organizational assistance with the details of the search process.
- We appreciate the congregation’s prayers and input during the interview process.
- Mr. Jim Fredrick, for his counsel and advice during this process.
- To the Reverend Sue Marie Baskette, and the congregation at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Prescott, for hosting our neutral pulpit.
- Finally, to Pastor Jessica Goad, for her willingness to stay with us during this search period as interim pastor. While discerning her own next path, she has patiently continued to guide us during this transition time.

Again, please mark your calendars for Saturday, Jun 22nd, 2:00pm and Sunday, June 23rd, 9:30 am. Light refreshments will be served on Saturday afternoon along with an informal “meet and greet” time. We look forward to your participation.

Yours in Christ,

The Federated Church PNC

Rachel Davis
Greg Haynes
Renee Henry
Pat Johnson
Kathy McConnell, Chair
Rick Miller
Craig Sidles

See the following pages for Rev. Scanlon’s letter and statement of faith.

Flagstaff Federated Faithful,

Pentecost greetings, with excitement and hope for what is to come. You are likely at least as anxious to get to know me as I feel wondering about you. I look forward to meeting you in a few weeks, when we will discern the direction of God's Spirit together.

Often when we meet new people we ask, "Where are you from?" or "Where did you grow up?" These and similar questions have always been more complicated for me to answer as succinctly as they are intended. In the Deep South, where I have spent many years and have extended family, they often ask, "Who are your people?" Yet the Californian in me tends to want to focus on describing my experiences and journey bringing me to you. I have faith that any and all of your questions about my background will soon be answered in time.

While the following page reads much like a résumé, describing where I have been and what I have done over the past fifteen years, it is equally as important to describe where I believe we are going, hopefully together, on our journey. I feel called to serve your faithful congregation because I am most passionate about and value social justice, progressive theology, learning, and community development.

As a life-long learner, much of my life has been spent attempting to answer the questions, "As a Christian, can I better serve, and have a greater impact in helping others live fuller lives, in full-time parish ministry or social work?" I believe Jesus was, among other things, a social worker, meeting people where they are in life, offering them options as to how they may choose to live and serve, and advocating for the oppressed and marginalized. Leading by example through self-sacrificial love is how Christ saves us from the sins of ourselves and offers new life and hope for the coming kin-dom community.

Perhaps the equally important follow-up question to asking, "Where are you from?" and "Who are your people?" is to ask, "Where are we going?" Notice how rather than asking, "Where are *you* going?" the collective "Where are *we* going?" places us together in the unified effort of building the kin-dom of God on Earth. This is our mission and the goal of our journey. At the end of Revelation, the final book of the Bible, John of Patmos describes a vision of the New Jerusalem, the Holy City of God, descending so God may dwell on the Earth with people. The closer we move toward God, the more we realize how God is moving ever closer to us and redeeming all creation until it becomes the place where death, and mourning, and crying will be no more.

Where are we going? The answer is God. How will we get there? The answer is by putting our passions into action. May the remaining days of our journey bring us ever closer to this answer as we work to build and bring about God's community on earth as it is in heaven.

Faithfully,

Rev. Jonathan Scanlon



The Reverend Dr. Jonathan Scanlon

Formal Education:

B.A. in Sociology with a social service emphasis	University of California, Davis, CA
M.Div.	Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, NJ
M.S.S.W.	University of Texas, Austin, TX
D. Min.	Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Austin, TX

Experience:

Young Adult Volunteer in Mission – St. Mark’s Presbyterian Church in Tucson, AZ
-No More Deaths “Humanitarian Aid is Never a Crime” campaign
Resident Pastor – Central Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA
Associate Pastor – First Presbyterian Church in Oxford, MS
Hospital Chaplain – St. Thomas Memorial Hospital in Nashville, TN
Temporary Pastor – Downtown Presbyterian Church in Nashville, TN
Temporary Stated Supply Pastor – Genesis Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX
Pastor – First Presbyterian Church in Clarion, PA

Statement of Faith:

I believe God has a plan for our lives that was set in motion long before we were born. I believe

I may never fully understand grace. I am left to serve as humbly as I am able, attempting to love as God loves, in abundance rather than in scarcity. I believe in the reformed tradition of interpreting scripture, emphasizing thoughtful interpretation of texts in their historical contexts. I believe God's call does not only come inwardly to our hearts but is confirmed by those with whom we worship, read scripture, and live in Christian community. I believe in God, the triune Creator and Sustainer, who entered into covenant with Abraham, giving humanity a chance to walk with their God. I believe the scriptures are the inspired Word of God. Scripture holds a truth about God without parallel that may continue to reveal new truth when studied faithfully in groups of believers. God provides the law for humanity to learn how their Lord wants to live in covenantal relationship with them. When people wandered off the path, God spoke through the prophets who helped to interpret the law and God's righteous action in the world. Jesus Christ, both fully human and fully divine, came into the world as the Word and summary of the law. Through Christ, we have a perfect example of how we are to live into God's righteousness. Following Christ's example, our lives ought to seek the highest good in devotion to justice, peace, truth, and beauty. Jesus said we are to love God with all our heart, mind, and soul; and we are to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. By this summary, we learn that loving God involves loving the stranger we encounter in our lives and that serving our God involves serving others in our world. As a community of faith, the Church strives to be the body of Christ in the world. The church acts by proclaiming the gospel through worship, prayer, fellowship, and corporate outreach. We are all wounded and filled with sin. By grace, God has chosen our lives for something better. Through Christ's death and resurrection, God's promise was kept. God is always trying to give grace away. God's Holy Spirit dwells in our hearts and confirms our adoption as children of God through the sacrament of Baptism. Through participation in the sacrament of the Eucharist, we are taught to share the table just as Jesus ate with many who were considered different. When we gather at the table, we are joined by the great cloud of witnesses, who have faithfully served Jesus Christ. The sacraments represent a promise God has with us that will never be broken and extends to our children. We look with anticipation toward the last day, the fulfillment of the kingdom and re-creation of life, when all will be united with God. As we wait for this fulfillment, we are called to serve others, advocate for the poor, and invite all people to be a part of God's mission throughout the world as we wait for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"