



Anchorage Presbyterian Church

Rev. Tara N. Reck, Pastor

P. O. Box 23316
11403 Park Road
Anchorage, KY 40223
Telephone: 502/245-5818

Email: anchoragepc@gmail.com

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have exciting news to share! Our Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) has selected a nominee for our Associate Pastor position and yesterday, January 11th, the Commission on Ministry examined the nominee and approved him for membership in our Presbytery. Later in the evening, the Session called a congregational meeting for **January 24th at noon** on Zoom. Included in this mailing is the process the APNC followed, and the terms of call. The first item on the agenda will be to approve our revised by-laws, which includes an addendum about electronic or virtual meetings, allowing for our congregational meeting to occur. The revised bylaws also include a clarification of the process for electronic/virtual congregational meetings as recommended by the Presbytery, and our process will be consistent with that.

Prior to notifying his current congregation, we need to use discretion as to the nominee's identity. At our congregational meeting, the candidate will introduce himself on a pre-recorded video, and members of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee will share why they feel that the nominee has been called by God to become our Associate Pastor. It is important that as many members as possible attend this congregational meeting to hear the report from the APNC, and be introduced to our Associate Pastor nominee.

A copy of the by-laws will be emailed, along with the Zoom link for the congregational meeting. If you needed to be added to our email list, or would like a paper copy of the by-laws, please contact Kathie in the church office at 502-245-5818 or anchoragepc@gmail.com.

We look forward to welcoming our Associate Pastor nominee into our ministry, and to the ways the Spirit will lead our church together into the future.

Anchored in hope,

Rev. Tara N. Reck

From the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee:

The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee began its work in June 2020 after approval by the APC Session and a vote of the congregation on May 31. These church members served on the committee: Kathy Doughten, Lea Fischbach, Anne Harryman, Dee Hoge, Bill Jessee, Kathryn Marino, Jimmy Nicholson, Becky Smither, Katherine Trentham, and Bill Wetherton. Rev. Tara Reck attended meetings to serve as a resource and to offer input as requested. Additionally, a liaison from the Commission on Ministry of our Mid-Kentucky Presbytery was present for most meetings and supported the APNC with procedural advice.

Initial meetings (via Zoom) involved examining results of both the congregational survey and report of the Transition Team produced earlier in the year. These sources helped inform our discussions related to the Ministry Information Form (MIF) required by our Presbytery in the search process. During the months of July and August, committee members met weekly to discuss and revise drafts of answers to multiple pages of the MIF: descriptions of our current ministry, our vision for future growth, desirable qualities in candidates we would consider, and primary responsibilities for a new Associate Pastor. In early September, the finalized MIF was approved by our Session and submitted to the PCUSA system for matching with candidates seeking calls.

In October and November, committee members reviewed and evaluated nearly forty Personal Information Forms (PIF) submitted either through the PCUSA matching system or by self-referral of candidates. Recorded sermons and virtual worship services submitted by many candidates were also reviewed. As we narrowed a list of finalists from multiple states, Zoom interviews with candidates were conducted in November and December. Selected committee members also made phone calls to check references.

In December the candidate (along with spouse) of greatest interest to the committee was able to make a two day in-person visit to APC for socially-distanced conversations with committee members, two at a time. There was additional time for this candidate to meet with church staff and for private conversation with Tara. Following these conversations, Tara and the committee convened and concluded that this candidate had met with our unanimous and enthusiastic approval as an exceptionally good match with our church leadership and ministry goals. Our Co-Chairs Dee Hoge and Bill Jessee met with the candidate to present proposed terms of call, and to the delight of the committee, the terms were accepted on December 30. If the way be clear, the nominee will choose the appropriate time to give notice to his current congregation, and his first day at our church will be March 17th.

Testimonies from the APNC:

“We learned from the transition team report and church survey that a desired attribute of our new AP was the ability to reach young families and young people. Our candidate came across to me as being very passionate and committed to developing young people and families in APC. I think he stated the highlight of his week was the powerful feelings and accomplishment after a “good youth group” meeting. I am impressed with his positive nature and energy. It also doesn’t hurt in my mind that he grew up in Lexington, attended UK and is a big-time Wildcat fan....we can always use a few more around here!

- Bill Jessee

“I’m so excited to recommend this associate pastor candidate for APC. Not only will this candidate be a great fit with our current ministry team, but will bring additional qualities that align with the congregational survey results and our vision for the future, especially this candidate’s heart for and talent with children and youth. The APNC was truly blessed by God’s hand in leading us and our candidate to each other.”

- Kathryn Marino

From the first time I read the candidate’s PIF, I was impressed by his energy, empathy, and creativity. Sermon recordings demonstrated excellent preaching skills. Our conversations revealed a warm demeanor, a keen intellect, a good sense of humor, and a passion for including youth in the life of the church. It is clear that the candidate and Tara will complement each other in many ways, and I am excited and grateful that he senses a call to Anchorage Presbyterian Church.

- Dee Hoge

From the moment I read our candidate’s PIF, I immediately thought- *this person would be an amazing addition to APC’s ministry!* Our candidate is a former Kentuckian, a graduate of UK, received his Master of Divinity at Louisville Seminary, and we found out during our interviews has a strong desire to return to Kentucky. Meeting the candidate and spouse a few weeks ago was an absolute confirmation of our associate pastor position. The most pleasing personality, impressive sermon delivery, and intensive interest in our youth programs will be an immediate benefit to the Anchorage Presbyterian congregation. Hallelujah!

- Bill Wetherton

I am so excited that the APNC and this candidate found each other! He is a great fit for our congregation and his gifts will complement our current ministry team. I spoke with one of his references, a pastor who knows both Tara and this candidate. In his words, “This candidate is the ying to Tara’s yang”, and I (and the other APNC members) agree. I am grateful that God brought us together and look forward to his ministry among us.

- Katherine Trentham

What joy after several months of fine tuning paperwork and good conversation about the future needs of our congregation, to finally meet candidates through Zoom. It was evident from the first moments that “the one we will welcome” is just what we were hoping to find through our search. Later, he smiled the entire time he sat in my classroom. What better affirmation that from the youngest to those more “senior, all will find him to be “one of us” ...caring for all with a joyous heart.

- Lea Fischbach

"I can say without equivocation the candidate we are recommending to you for the position of Associate Pastor is one of the most exciting, dynamic, and qualified individuals we have ever had the opportunity to work with. That's saying a lot as we have had some wonderful people over the years. He's young, energetic, and brings fresh ideas to the table. After a few minutes with him you quickly feel like old friends. He's articulate. He's deeply committed to the church. And he is committed to growing our youth program and church family. Our future is bright with him on our team."

- Jimmy Nicholson

