



March 17, 2020

Friends,

I am honored to have been invited to walk with you, the congregation at First Presbyterian Church in Normal, as you transition to calling a new head pastor. The purpose of this letter is to outline the process we will be undertaking with the hope that it will provide a better understanding of what is ahead.

The first step, taken by Session, was to select and approve a Mission Study Team (MST). The members of the team are Bob Beerup, Nathan Carpenter, Teresa Herbert, Lynn Litwiller, Carol Schrantz, Dave Seyller, and Melissa Walles. The MST began its work on March 5.

The MST will be gathering statistical data about this congregation and the surrounding community, as well as financial information from our treasurer here at First Presbyterian. The team wants to hear from all members and had hoped to have in person meetings. However, with restrictions made necessary by the COVID-19 outbreak, we will conduct a survey to determine where each of you believe God is leading First Presbyterian Church. The team plans to offer the surveys in written form and on-line. Watch for details about this important work. We will also conduct a survey with the staff and with session as well.

All the information gathered will be compiled into a Mission Study, which will describe who this congregation is now and who God is calling us to be. When it is completed and approved by Session, it will be presented to the Committee on Ministry (COM) of the Presbytery. Once the COM has accepted the report, they will entertain a request from us to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and will approve that request. At that time, the MST will be nominated to become the PNC, and will be approved at a specially called congregational meeting. We hope to have this work completed by June 1, 2020.

The PNC will then begin the work of finding the pastor that God has for us. I will send another update to all when that work begins.

If you have any questions or feedback about this process, please don't hesitate to contact me or a member of the MST. My email address is k.s.mitchell333@gmail.com and my phone number is (309) 825-1578 (I do text). Please contact me at any time. I look forward to our time together.

Peace,

Rev. Kathy Mitchell
Transitional Teaching Elder