

*Most of the information contained in this brochure is set out by the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church USA, and the rules of the Presbytery of New Hope.*

## **1. What will happen between now and June 30<sup>th</sup> ?**

- Your staff and officers are seeking to take on many of the detailed church tasks that Haywood has performed.
- Church committees are being enlarged to involve more and more of the congregation in our ministries.
- Haywood intends to do his best to be a faithful pastor until he leaves.
- The Session is beginning to explore availability of Interim Pastors, and has appointed an Interim Research Committee, led by Doug Elvers, to begin gathering information.
- There will be a congregational meeting in June to petition Presbytery to concur with Haywood's request to terminate his pastoral relationship with WPC effective June 30.
- A special retirement celebration committee led by Alex Denson, is at work. There will be farewell celebrations during the last two weekends of June.

## **2. What is an Interim Pastor?**

An interim pastor (IP) is an ordained Presbyterian Minister who is called by the Session to serve as pastor for a stated period of time – usually one year, but the contract may be extended if need be. The IP becomes the head-of-staff and Session Moderator. The IP **cannot** be called to serve as the next installed pastor.

## **3. When will the Interim Pastor be installed?**

This may take a while. Most of the very best IP's are under contract with other churches, so it may be several months before the Session finds the appropriate IP. In the meantime, our church staff will continue their leadership in keeping WPC going about her mission.

## **4. Who will moderate the Session after June 30<sup>th</sup>?**

Presbytery will appoint another minister (neither Betty nor Paul) to serve as Moderator of the Session until the Interim is installed.

## **5. How long will it take to find a new pastor after Haywood leaves?**

Nobody knows for sure, but usually about 2 years. The interim period is a time for us to exercise patient discernment that we may find the pastor who will be best for the future of our congregation.

## **6. What about the rest of the staff?**

Betty, Paul, Monica, Barbara, Nancy and Gail have all stated their intention to stay on the staff through the interim period, and hopefully longer, if their relationships with the new pastor are productive.

## **7. How will we find a new Pastor?**

Soon after July 1, your current Nominating Committee will begin to consider people to be nominated to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee(PNC). The Session will call a congregational meeting to elect the PNC. (This cannot be done until AFTER June 30.) The PNC will put together a Church Information Form (CIF) which should be relatively easy since we just completed the Congregational Assessment earlier this year. The CIF will be sent through Presbytery to the General Assembly. Shortly thereafter pastors from all over the USA will begin to send in Pastoral Information Forms (PIF's). The PNC will sort through the PIF's, eventually singling out people whom they think might serve well as your pastor, check out their references, and begin to interview some of them.

## **8. Does the PNC have to consider only those folks who apply through "the system?"**

No. Any member of the congregation may offer to the PNC

names of Pastors they wish the PNC to consider, but the PNC may not interview any minister without the approval of Presbytery.

**9. May either Paul or Betty be elected as our new pastor?**

No. Our Constitution does not permit an Associate Pastor to be elected as pastor of the church he or she currently serves as an Associate.

**10. Will Haywood and Mary still be able to worship here or take part in WPC programs?**

No. Haywood will not be allowed to officiate at weddings, baptisms or funerals of WPC members unless he is specifically invited by the moderator of the Session to do so. For the good of WPC, your Session and Haywood urge the congregation not to pressure either to do any of these things at least for a couple of years.

**11. What do they plan to do after they leave WPC?**

They intend to stay in their Durham home. Mary will continue to serve as a Fund Raising Consultant, and Haywood will stay involved in some Community and Presbytery ministries.

**12. How will we stay informed about the progress of the PNC?**

It is highly unlikely that the PNC will report anything to the congregation

until it is ready to ask the Session to call a congregational meeting to present a candidate for our next pastor. All of their deliberations and actions will be highly confidential until the PNC reaches a decision.

However, during the interim period, the Session expects to make periodic progress reports to the congregation.

**13. Will the congregation have an opportunity to hear the person whom the PNC chooses preach before we vote to call him/her?**

Probably not. Although it is possible to have a “trial sermon,” that is generally not done in this Presbytery. The congregation will rely on the wisdom and discernment of the PNC.

Alphabet Soup

PNC – Pastor(or Pulpit) Nominating Committee

PIF – Pastoral Information Form

CIF – Church Information Form

IP – Interim Pastor

IRC – Interim Research Committee

ISC – Interim Search Committee

Some  
Questions  
&  
Answers  
  
Concerning  
Our  
Pastoral  
Transition

Westminster  
Presbyterian Church  
Durham, NC  
April 17, 2006