

**JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY**  
**Transitional Ministry Report**  
St. Andrew at Kimberling City

St. Andrew has a long and storied history but suffice it to say that God's timing is perfect. In 2021, we were the beneficiaries of the estate of our beloved member, Dr. Virginia Fogerson. Also, in 2021 our Presbytery Transitional Consultant, Greg Emery led a group that we called New Directions through a process of discernment. We intentionally worked through the process led by Greg and supported by our New Directions team. By December, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was formed, and we created a Ministry Information Form (MIF) that we felt reflected who we are and what we wished to be about as a church. We used words like "betting the farm" and included a list of duties the pastor will NOT have to do, such as "cleaning the 8000 square foot debt free building, replacing the 2-ply toilet paper, or running the new audio-visual equipment for streaming."

The PNC began meeting formally on January 14 of last year. At that meeting we studied the process and signed a covenant agreement which included confidentiality and praying for one another. We each took on a part of responsibility such as chair, scribe, hospitality, and worship. As we remembered that everything is within God's timing, we continued to lift each other up in prayer, and kept weekly communication with the congregation. During all this time, Greg was available for support.

We reached out to about 1/3 of the 110 PIFs received. Our emails included specific items from the PIF that would match our MIF to make it more personal. Interestingly, many candidates responded that although they were not able to go forward with us, they promised to pray that God would send just the right person. Zoom interviews were held with eight candidates and two were invited to visit in person. It was a bit of a roller coaster ride but onward we pressed. We found it helpful to meet and pray before each zoom call, to ask God's guidance, and to help us be open and creative.

Then we read Pastor Tom's PIF. As we told him in our first email to him, his first sentences in the "ministry setting to which he feels called" could have been written for our MIF. He said, "My desire is to be a part of a church that wants to reach out to all people with the Good News. We must take the Word of God, the life-challenging and changing message of the Lord into all the world. My desire is to be part of a church that wants to be the church and not just another organization in town or business. We bear witness to something that the people of the community and world can only receive from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. So, we must share our faith joyfully with them through word and deed, love and justice, worship, and prayer."

In conversations with Pastor Tom, he suggested thinking creatively and doing things a little differently. Greg Emery had prepared us and encouraged us to think outside the box, so we were open to exploring a different process. Pastor Tom suggested a period of providing pulpit

John Calvin Presbytery  
Thursday, August 3rd, 2023

Two Hundred and Eleventh Stated Meeting  
First Presbyterian Church, Mt. Vernon, Missouri  
Meeting Via Zoom

supply for four weeks that would include fellowship activities for us to get to know one another. That was approved, and after only one Sunday, we were pretty sure the entire congregation was convinced he was supposed to be our pastor. But we followed the plan for those 4 Sundays with the support of the congregation. The congregational vote was held on May 21 and was unanimous in favor of calling Pastor Tom.

The St. Andrew PNC was faithful and professional during our search. They embodied the tenet of serving with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

We appreciated the Executive Presbyter, Malinda Spencer, Committee on Ministry and Greg Emery, who have supported us along this creative and often non-traditional path. We thanked the congregation for their patience and prayers. We appreciated ALL your prayers for us and for all the churches who are searching. In particular, we appreciated all of our pulpit supply pastors and the prayers they spoke aloud for “the pastor whom you have in mind for this church.” We grew to know and love them, and they sustained us. We are so grateful.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Artemenko and Deb Field