



# First Presbyterian Church

*Hearts Open to Christ • Doors Opening to His World*

20 Kings Highway East  
Haddonfield, New Jersey 08033

April 6, 2020

Dear Fellow Members of FPCH:

On behalf of the Personnel Committee I am pleased to let you know that we have completed our search for a Transitional Pastor. We have extended Terms of Call to The Reverend Dr. Douglas D. Gerds, currently the Senior Pastor/Head of Staff at First & Central Presbyterian Church in Wilmington DE.

Doug's candidacy was approved by the Session in March and he received approval from the Presbytery's Commission on Ministry last week. (Congregational approval is not required for Transitional Pastors). Doug has accepted the Call and will begin with us on June 22, 2020. Doug will be available to serve as Transitional Pastor for as long as it takes to fill the Senior Pastor role, typically 12-18 months. Doug plans to use the apartment in the Wezner House so he can be part of the Haddonfield community 3-4 nights a week.

The Personnel Committee wholeheartedly supported Doug's candidacy. Here are some of the reasons the Personnel Committee was attracted to Doug:

## **Strong Staff and Leadership Skills**

- Doug has been Pastor/Head of Staff in medium and large size congregations for 20 years including 6 years at a congregation larger than ours. Doug has also successfully led transition efforts in the past
- Doug is bright and insightful which will help us as we prepare for a new Senior Pastor.
- Doug has a strong Accounting background and has served as Treasurer of his Presbytery.
- Prior to ordination, Doug held an executive role overseeing more than 1,000 employees.

## **Preaching, Worship, Mission and Pastoral Care**

- Doug delivered inspirational homilies at both worship services that we observed. His interaction with the congregation was warm, relaxed and engaged.
- Doug told us that he likes to deliver homilies that call for action on the part of the congregants, often connected to their tasks in the Church or their Mission to the world
- The Music Program at both Worship Services was excellent and reminiscent of our commitment to music during worship
- Doug spoke often about the joy he receives from giving Pastoral Care.

- Doug provides strong leadership in Mission and gave us examples of how he helped his congregation see new mission opportunities and inspired them to move quickly when opportunities and needs arrived.

Hopefully this summary gives you comfort that Doug will be an excellent steward of FPCH. I encourage you to reach out to Doug to welcome him at: [fpchaddonfield@gmail.com](mailto:fpchaddonfield@gmail.com).

And lastly, I would like to thank the members of the Personnel Committee: Clair Blank, Margot Dark, Rachel Davis, Jim Groeling, Gerry Rice, and Bill Wright for their insight, the depth of their questioning and the gift of their valuable time during the search.

Sincerely,

Paul Urian on behalf of the Personnel Committee