



Letter from the Senior Pastor Search Team
to Announce Our Recommendation for CPC's Senior Pastor
August 20, 2020

It is with great love for our church, and excitement for CPC's continued flourishing in the future, that the Senior Pastor Search Team announces the outcome of our work. **By God's grace, we recommend Petey Crowder to be the next Senior Pastor of Christ Presbyterian Church.** We presented this recommendation to the Session and we received their blessing to move forward.

The recommendation of Petey Crowder comes as the result of a nationwide search that extended over 16 months. We retained the search firm Vanderbloemen to lead this search, resulting in more than 75 candidates. Those candidates were screened down to six candidates interviewed by our team. Two final candidates stood out. Although Petey was an internal candidate (he currently serves as CPC's Executive Pastor), we applied the same standards of evaluation to him as external candidates; the few of us with a personal relationship with Petey were transparent and accountable about any ways it might impact our discernment. The extended timeline of our process is a reflection of the seriousness and intentionality we applied to our work, which we saturated in prayer.

This 16-month process yielded two well-qualified, outstanding candidates. After prayer and rich discussion, we unanimously agreed that we would make a decision by majority vote. The committee selected Petey Crowder—and we are unified in our support for this decision. Our team stands together as one in supporting Petey as the next Senior Pastor.

We had the privilege of sharing our decision with Petey in person last week. We invited Petey—along with his wife Ashley—to meet with us (in masks!) so that we could pray for them and share words of blessing with them. Each one of us shared a passage of Scripture or words of commissioning for Petey. We stretched out our arms toward him and Ashley to pray for God's protection and faithfulness. It was a meaningful time together.

As a congregation, you have been patient, prayerful, and encouraging to us during this 16-month search process. Please know we are deeply grateful. You added valuable input via a survey and focus groups, and we have all felt your prayers and support. Our desire to represent you well—and to honor God above all—has led to deep work, thorough investigation, robust dialogue, and ultimately an emotional moment of decision. We feel confident in the process that has led to this recommendation and we look forward to CPC's next chapter with great hope!

We are recommending Petey—but it will be up to you, the members of CPC, to vote to approve Petey’s hiring and officially extend to him a “call” as Senior Pastor (to use the denominational terminology). **The opportunity for you to vote will be at the congregational meeting on September 13, 2020. In the coming weeks, the Session will announce details of the congregational meeting and vote, both of which will be conducted virtually. Along with this announcement you can also learn more about Petey, Ashley, and their family on our website.** We will continue to share even more information in the coming days. We want you to get to know Petey and his heart better, learn about the convictions and gifts God has given him, see how he aligns with the opportunity profile, and discover for yourself why we recommend him.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Senior Pastor Search Team. Petey stands to be just the third senior pastor of this church since its founding in 1956. Christ has been the namesake and cornerstone of Christ Presbyterian Church through all our days—and with joy and faith, we trust Christ for the great things He will do in all the days to come!

Your Senior Pastor Search Team

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