

Church family,

Almost 2 months ago in our quarterly business meeting, I gave you an update on where we stood related to the deacon responsibilities during a time of transition between Senior Pastors. The deacons have met a few times since then and with the help of our affiliations with NorthStar and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, we learned more about a couple of different approaches to this time of transition. At the recommendation of members of our congregation, our ministers and staff, the deacons decided to pursue candidates who are specifically trained to help churches during times of transition. They are trained to deal with a variety of situations that a congregation may face during this interim but ultimately they help to a church embrace its identity, clearly identify the profile of the pastor that they need to search for and prepare and train a search committee to swiftly and effectively find the new leader for our congregation and staff.

During these meetings, the deacons agreed to form a small group of deacons and ministers that would work to find the right transitional pastor for our church at this time. This Interim Transition Team has met on four different occasions and has gained access to profiles and resumes through the Center for Congregational Health (which is an organization that trains this type of minister) and CBF. Over the last week the team has interviewed five very high quality and well recommended candidates and did a second round with a final 3 candidates. We are very excited to report to you that we have selected a candidate who was unanimously the number one choice of our entire team. We shared this choice with the deacon body and they have supported our decision to bring the candidate forward to the church. His name is Rev. Dr. Layne Smith of Hendersonville, NC. He has long served in various congregations over his long career and made a decision about 10 years ago to be trained as an intentional interim minister and help churches during times of transition and to guide them to their next pastor and spiritual leader. He just finished his last transitional ministry opportunity this past June and that congregation was able to vote to call their new Pastor just a few weeks after he left.

Dr. Smith and his wife Dianne will be coming to McLean in 2 weeks on the weekend of August 28. There will be many opportunities for you to meet, ask

questions and get to know both of them. He will deliver the sermon that Sunday, August 28 and immediately after that service in our called business meeting, we will vote to call him as new Transitional Interim Pastor. If you have any questions prior to that weekend, the entire Interim Transition Team that helped choose him is more than happy to share with you why we are excited about the prospect of Dr. Layne Smith serving among us. That team consists of me, Rick Rodgers, Cheryl Kelley, Leah Schroeder, Meg Clapp and Katie Morgan. Please reach out to any of us if you have anything that we can answer before Dr. Layne Smith and his wife Dianne come visit the weekend of August 28. As always, if the deacons can do anything for you during this time of transition, we request that you reach out to your deacon or any deacon to let us know. Just so everyone knows, you don't have to be a member of the church to have a deacon assigned to your family. If you are a regular attendee of our church who has not yet decided to join but would like a deacon, please let one of the deacons know. We are here to support you during this unusual, possibly anxious and uncertain transitional time. I am confident that someone like Dr. Layne Smith will do an excellent job to help alleviate the anxiety and uncertainty during our transition between pastors.

Jon Kelley (Chair of Deacons)