



First Reformed Church of Sioux Falls

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Connect with God, **Grow** Together, and **Be Transformed** by the Holy Spirit

Announcement to the Congregation

On behalf of the Discernment Team and the Consistory, this notification is provided to inform the congregation that Consistory approved the end of the Discernment Team.

The Discernment Team was formed to seek and discern God's will for our congregation as we navigated the waters of transition from the Pastor Steve & Pastor Ken co-pastoring model into the next steps as a congregation with the departure of Pastor Steve Anthes.

The Discernment Team was formed about 18 months ago, comprised of the current Elder board and the current Administration Team. Discernment Team met regularly and held Open Forum meetings with the congregation and staff in April of 2019. Much prayer and discernment led the Team to affirm the following priorities at FRC for 2019 & 2020:

- Focus on Christian Education, especially nursery through 5th grade
- Focus on Care Ministry
- Focus on Small Groups
- Focus on Missions
- Discerning/Considering continuing with a Co-Pastor model
- Focus on Debt Reduction
- Seeking a new 2nd Service Worship Coordinator with the resignation of Devon Comp

Considerable time, effort, prayer, and discerning has been put into this process. We are pleased to report on the progress on these fronts:

1. Christian Education, especially nursery through 5th grade:
 - a. Jenn Peterson was recently hired on a part-time basis to lead as the Director of Children's Ministries at FRC.
2. Care Ministry:
 - a. Resulted in the quick formation of the Care Team led by Elders Tim Klein and Cal Hoekstra supported by many congregational members on the Team.
 - b. Craig Pederson was hired on a part-time basis with Care Team leadership as one of his responsibilities
3. Small Groups:
 - a. Craig Pederson was hired on a part-time basis with Small Group & Discipleship leadership as one of his responsibilities
4. Missions:
 - a. Lisa Drenth's role at FRC has expanded to include leadership of the Connect Team intentionally providing leadership/coordination of missions efforts
5. Co-Pastor model:
 - a. Discernment Team & Consistory discerned/decided not to pursue a second full-time ordained Pastor role at FRC at this time, nor in the near future.

6. Debt Reduction/FRC Financials:
 - a. FRC applied for and secured PPP funds in April, 2020 ... sitting unused at this time.
 - b. FRC General Fund has seen a healthy rebound from approx. \$29,000 account balance in May 2019 to approx. \$95,000 account balance in May 2020.
 - c. FRC paid down an extra \$17,300 on principal in 2020 so far bringing our current mortgage balance to \$401,608.00 as of August 31, 2020.
 - d. Giving has remained strong throughout the uncertain times with COVID-19. We are grateful for cheerful and faithful givers.
7. 2nd Service Worship Coordinator:
 - a. Craig Pederson was hired on a part-time basis with Worship Leading as one of his responsibilities

Even with the unforeseen challenges of the COVID pandemic, our congregation has been blessed in many ways with progress on all of these fronts. It is with that momentum at our backs and strong God lead leadership as we press forward into the future that the decision to dissolve the Discernment Team was made.

We would like to acknowledge the efforts of the following Discernment Team members in their leadership throughout this process:

- Darcy Van Gorp
- Galen VerSteege
- Tim Klein
- Jeff Spaans
- Cal Hoekstra
- Dave Van Nieuwenhuyzen
- Jeff Christensen
- Chuck Hoelscher
- Scott Wick
- Scott Perrenoud
- Patti Kuck
- Jay Headley
- Pastor Ken Eberline

We will continue to hold quarterly congregational Q&A meetings to keep the congregation informed as we press forward together. We appreciate your trust and prayer support throughout this time of transition and discernment.

Blessings to you all!

FRC Consistory