

Dear Friends,

As you know, Madison Presbyterian Church will soon embark on a process that will result in the call of a new pastor. I am writing to describe the earliest aspects of this process and let you know how you can help.

At the June Session meeting, Sue Jacobsen, a member of the Committee on Ministry (COM) in Northeast Georgia Presbytery, discussed the Presbyterian process that our Book of Order describes for calling a new pastor. She will serve as COM liaison to our church during the search process. First on the agenda is for our congregation to elect a Pulpit Nominating Committee (PNC). Session has asked the Nominating Committee that nominated the last class of elders to come back together and recommend a slate of names to the congregation to be considered for service on the PNC. In order for that to happen, the Nominating Committee is soliciting from the congregation the names of members you would like considered for service on the PNC. The PNC must be broadly inclusive of the congregation, i.e., men and women, different ages, different lengths of membership in the church, involvement in many areas of the life of the church, etc. Once a slate is prepared, the Nominating Committee will ask Session to call a congregational meeting. At that meeting, the Nominating Committee will make its report and propose a slate for service on the PNC. As required by the Book Of Order, nominations can also be made from the floor. Those elected will serve on the Pulpit Nominating Committee to call a new pastor.

To begin, the Nominating Committee needs the help of the congregation. Please prayerfully consider the names of church members you would like the Nominating Committee to consider for the PNC. You may submit these names to a member of the Nominating Committee or by bringing or mailing them to the church office. Those serving on the Nominating Committee are W.H. Ashburn, chair, Hoyt Jackson, Gloria Stuhlmiller, June Jones, and Jeanie Johnson. Please make your submittals by August 20.

It is hoped that the Nominating Committee will be ready for Session to call a congregational meeting to elect a PNC by the middle of October. Once a Pulpit Nominating Committee is elected, they will begin their work by conducting a survey of the congregation. Once the study is completed and compiled, the PNC will write a Church Information Form (CIF) that will be used to advertise the position.

This is the first step in a process that normally takes about eighteen months. Please be in prayer for the Nominating Committee, for the PNC once it is elected, and for our Church, that God will guide us during this time of transition and the calling of a new pastor.

Sincerely,

A. Coile Estes