



## The First Presbyterian Church

14 Hilltop Road  
Mendham, NJ 07945  
[www.hilltopchurch.org](http://www.hilltopchurch.org)

September 23, 2020

Greetings to the Congregation -

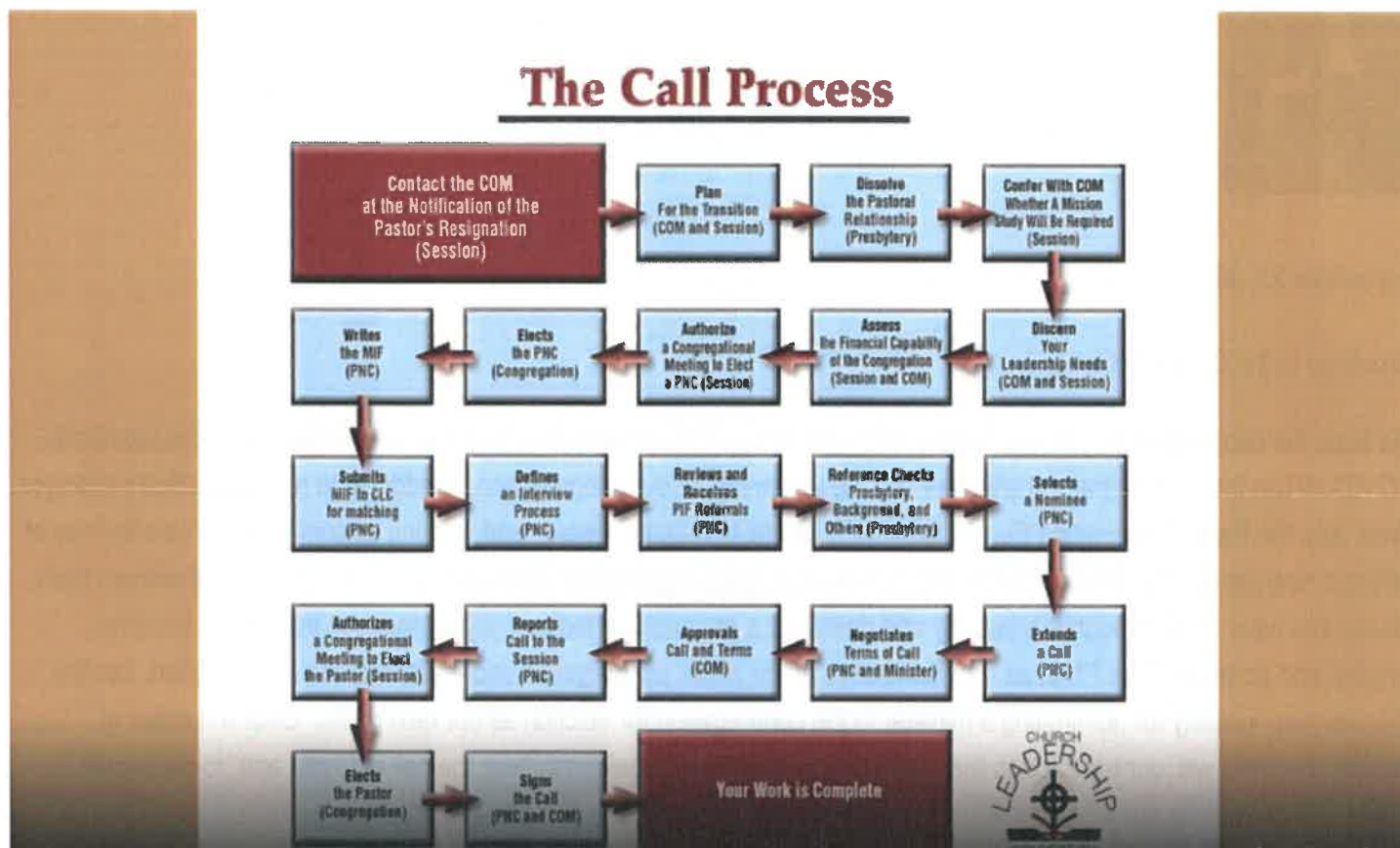
We hope the congregation is staying healthy and safe as we all steer through our altered way of life during this pandemic. COVID-19 has introduced many challenges and “new normals” to our congregation. In addition to navigating these changes, since July, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has been meeting weekly and working diligently through the journey of calling a new pastor. The Church Leadership Connection of the Presbyterian Church USA collected words of wisdom from others who have gone through this journey and describes it as “exciting, tedious, joyful, spiritual, frustrating, inspiring, lengthy, and powerful.” The PNC, as *representatives of the whole congregation and elected by the congregation*, has the ultimate responsibility for nominating a minister to the congregation for election as our next pastor. Over a number of months, the PNC will journey through the pastoral search process, seeking to hear the call of Christ and “to participate in God’s own choice” for our next pastor.

The initial work in the process of calling a new pastor was done by the Discernment Study Team, adopted by the Session and accepted by the Newton Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry. During this time of transition, the congregation offered thoughtful, prayerful insight about where we saw ourselves as a church and as part of the community. The final Discernment Report provides the PNC with a foundation outlining strengths and areas of need and growth at Hilltop Church. The PNC is using this report to help identify leadership qualities and characteristics required of a new pastor to carry us into the next chapter of our congregation’s life and church history.

During the call for a new pastor, the three main players are the congregation, the presbytery, and the PNC. The congregation’s main role was being involved in the discernment process and then electing the PNC to carry on the search for a new pastor. It will be the congregation who elects a new Pastor upon the recommendation of the PNC. The presbytery has the primary responsibility for oversight of the process and has provided a liaison to work with the PNC. As noted, the majority of work is done by the PNC.

The PNC currently is working on completing the Ministry Information Form (MIF) and when completed this will reflect our congregation and the leadership competencies we have identified. The MIF is then submitted to the nationwide Presbyterian Church Leadership Connection (CLC) database to be matched with Pastor Information Forms (PIF). Pastors seeking positions will then have an opportunity to submit and indicate their interest in our church. We will be developing interview protocols so as candidates are identified, they can be quickly vetted by the PNC.

The following flowchart helps outline the many steps involved in the process, as well as the responsible party for each step.



COM: Committee on Ministry, part of Presbytery PNC: Pastor Nominating Committee

MIF: Ministry Information Form

CLC: Church Leadership Connection

PIF: Pastor Information Form

As in any search process it must be understood that the members of PNC cannot release any information that could negatively impact the process, it's progress or candidates confidentially.

We ask for your continued prayers as we work together and follow God's will in calling our new pastor.

Peace and blessings-

The Hilltop PNC

Jeffrey Betz and Lin Perkins Co-Chairs

Stefanie Fox      Cassandra Tarantino

Per Lamb         Bob Willett