

SECRETS OR CONFIDENCES?

What is difference between secrets and confidences? The definitions of Philip Wiehe are helpful:

“Secrecy” is the withholding of information in order to gain power over another.

“Confidentiality” is the withholding of information because revealing the information would be embarrassing or injurious to someone.

Personnel matters are often confidential. This is not secrecy, but an effort to prevent public humiliation or embarrassment.

In the church, confidentiality also surrounds matters dealing with the call of a pastor. In the coming months, the PNC will keep confidential their work with those who are applying for the position of the installed pastor.

This is not a power play by the PNC, but a recognition that news that a pastor is looking before she or he is ready to move, could be embarrassing and strain a candidate’s current pastoral relationships and ministry

We can help the PNC in their work by not asking questions they cannot answer while praying constantly for their work.

DO WE NEED A CONSULTANT?

A better question is: how does a consultant help us be the people God is calling us to be?

We are Called to Keep our Commitments - A consultant with no history could help us keep faith with a commitment to dialogue that session made to the former youth leaders.

We Are Called to Ministry and Mission - Interviews and the consultant’s report will be helpful to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) in preparing a mission study of who we are and where we are going.

We Are Called to Covenant Community and Presbyterian Partnership - The Committee on Ministry (COM) voted for us to proceed with the election of a PNC upon the report that we were in the process of hiring a consultant “to uncover underlining issues if any and work toward resolving them” It would be wrong not to keep faith with them.

We Are Called to Be Good Stewards of the Congregation A consultant would be a good way to examine the health of the

congregation between installed pastors.

The best candidate(s) for the next installed pastor here will learn of recent troubles and wonder what has happened since then.

Supported by the consultant’s findings, the PNC will be able to tell the candidates we had these challenges and are faithfully working them or that we are past them.

Session has interviewed three consultants and will interview the fourth this month.

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us be the People
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