



Search Committee Congregation Listening Session Thursday January 16, 2025 at 7:00pm (Zoom meeting)

The following notes are reflective of the Committee Clerk's (Ryan Murray) takeaways/perspective from the meeting, with additional notes from other Committee members.

Preamble

- Meeting began at 7:02pm (28 participants)
- Daniel Quan-Watson opening remarks
- Committee Introductions
- Liz Grinevitch prayer
- Daniel reviewed Key Expectations (KE) document in full
- 41 participants at 7:35pm

Listening portion

- Are we providing housing supports for the new Minister? What have we done previously?
- Like the "rubric", maybe Council can use the "rubric" with current staff as practice for when they use it for the prospective candidate.
- KE document was thoughtful.
- Item 10 on KE document on expectation; they feel welcomed as a single individual at FBC, do we need to add something related to that?
- Have we considered reconfiguration of staff roles, like a restructure perhaps?
 - Response: We will bring this question to council since the role of Senior Minister is in our bylaws.
- 42 participants at 7:45pm
- Recognize FBC's work and actions towards Indigenous Reconciliation and Healing thus far but acknowledged that we are still far from healing and would like to see it continue.
- Talk about prayer, different types of prayer, and how this might be integrated.
- Looking for strong theological depth to teachings.
- What is the role of FBC Members in this process?
 - Response: At the end of this process, there will be a congregational meeting to vote (as outlined in the FBC Bylaws). Engagement before then will depend on many factors, such as how many applications we receive or whether different demographics of the church should be consulted. The Search Committee webpage is a place to go for updates and you can contact a member of the committee at any time.
- Re-affirmation of Item 13 of KE document; expects lay people for Prayers of the People and other pulpit duties to continue.
- Looking for a candidate with strong theological understanding who can move our church forward but listens to and understands the congregation.
- What is our pool of applicants?
- How wide a net are we casting? Would we have a process for nominating or approaching potential applicants?
 - Response: We would welcome recommendations at any time. Please send suggestions to the search committee along with any relevant background information.
- What if a CBWC Minister would be interested and fit our criteria?
 - Response: They would be very welcome to apply.



- Appreciate sentiment that we will not be going backwards on decisions already made.
- Ensure focus on "Peace and wellbeing of the city" and to celebrate the amazing work our congregation already does.
- Appreciating new people at our church, some of whom have deconstructed or are deconstructing from past experiences.
- There appears to be a shifting of the "cultural times", we may need to think about how we shift with it.
- 41 participants at 8:11pm
- Prayer chain request, additional prayer options, the power of prayer.
- Pastoral care is valued.
- Gatherings of the church community is valued.
- Council work is a big job.
- Praise for the "friendship circle".
- Ask for prayers for the Search Committee.
- Choir chilli and soup event as an example of a positive gathering, maybe other groups could try similar activities.
- Thanks to FBC staff, Council, Ministry team.

Closing remarks from Committee Members and Committee Chair.

- Meeting ended at 8:30pm with 40 participants remaining.

The Search Committee is grateful for the participation and contributions of those who attended this meeting and those who have found ways to support the Committee and its work. The Committee will take and consider this information, along with any comments and perspectives brought forward through future Listening events, and other elements of the Committee's work. We deeply appreciate the generous willingness to share these thoughtful and important comments about the Church you want and the Senior Minister that we want to lead it.