

October 5, 2020

Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,

Teaching the faith has been a major tenet of the Presbyterian church since its beginning. Forming and developing a dynamic, personal Christian faith takes a lifetime of learning. Over the years, First Presbyterian Church (FPC) has been blessed to have gifted, effective Directors of Christian Education, including Debbie Foster, Jennifer Stewart, and Alisa Gibson (twice as interim) in recent years. These directors and the Christian Education position have served us well. Now we, as well as most traditional, mainstream churches, are facing challenges and opportunities that are different than those of the past:

- So many competing demands for the time of people of all ages make the one-size-fits-all approach to faith development less effective.
- The transmission of religious education from generation to generation is declining.
- Technology affords a variety of alternatives to in-person learning.
- Disciples want personalized opportunities to strengthen their faith while connecting with other disciples.

These challenges and opportunities as well as many others require a team of creative people in decentralized roles. This approach to faith formation enhances the energy and ideas of the team while giving support and feedback to each team member who is charged with a defined age group within the church community.

For several months, a Faith Formation (Christian Education) Team of FPC disciples and Dr. Tedder (participant list enclosed) has been studying Reimagining Faith Formation for the 21st Century by John Roberto and has recommended a two-year pilot plan for transitioning from one centralized position to a team of three people in part-time positions. The Faith Formation Transition Plan (contact church office for a copy) has been approved by Session with the understanding that advertising to fill these positions will begin within the FPC church community and then, if necessary, within the wider community.

The three part-time positions are Coordinator of Faith Formation Events, Director of Faith Formation for Children, and Director of Faith Formation for Adults (preliminary job descriptions enclosed). These three people, along with the two pastors and the Director of Youth and Family Ministries (Kari Morgan), will work collaboratively in offering coordinated opportunities for faith development and formation.

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A search committee has been appointed (participant list enclosed) to advertise, interview, and identify a candidate for each position. Each candidate will be interviewed by the two pastors and the Director of Youth and Family Ministries before the search committee makes a hiring recommendation to Session. Please consider prayerfully your interest in any of these positions and apply in accordance with the directions below:

First Presbyterian Church of Anderson, SC, is seeking applicants for three part-time positions: Coordinator of Faith Formation Events,
Director of Faith Formation for Children,
Director of Faith Formation for Adults.

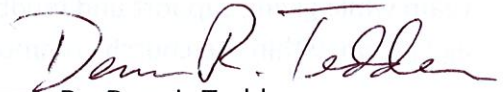
Qualifications: a person of faith in the reformed tradition, demonstrated successful experience applicable to the position-of-interest and to working as a team member, ability to pass the safe church background checks. **Application:** Current resume. Names, phone numbers (day and evening) and email address of 2 professional references. Cover letter stating the position-of-interest, describing relevant work experience and roles as a member of a team, and explaining what the term "faith formation" means to you in the context of a traditional protestant church. Return completed application to debrak@fpcandersonsc.com with FF Search Committee in subject line by **October 20**.

Dear folks, becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ is a life-long journey of formation. Please pray for this new effort and lively servants to strengthen and challenge all our efforts to make faithful, joyful disciples with all ages.

Sincerely,



Debbie Williamson, Chairperson
Faith Formation Transition Search Committee



Dr. Dennis Tedder
Senior Pastor