In a special announcement on August 3 and the last edition of the Bi-Weekly Brief the EP search team announced The Rev. Dr. Daniel Saperstein as its candidate to be the next Executive Presbyter and gave an overview of his leadership style. In this edition we would like to share with you a little about Dan's education, work experience and his views on one of the position responsibilities.

**Education:**
2006 Doctor of Ministry, Executive Leadership (multicultural emphasis), McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill.
Thesis: "When the Pastor Leaves: A Manual for Presbytery Intervention during the Early Interim Period" (Dr. Luis Rivera-Rodriguez, adviser)

1983 Master of Divinity, Princeton Theological Seminary, Princeton, New Jersey

1978-1980 M.Div. coursework, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California

1978 Bachelor of Arts, magna cum laude, Psychology and Religious Studies (double major), Occidental College, Los Angeles, California

**Work History:**
2013- Co-leader for Mission and Partnership, Synod of the Sun, Irving, Texas
  • Eleven presbyteries, 826 churches, 158,000 members in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana
  • Developed, coordinated, and resourced twenty different mission ministries, networks, and covenant partnerships
  • Responsible for facilitating transition into new design of synod as missional partnerships
  • Corresponding member, Boards of Trustees/Directors for Mo-Ranch Presbyterian Assembly, Presbyterian Pan-American School, Trinity University, Texas Presbyterian Foundation, Synod of the Sun Foundation, Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest, Solar Under the Sun

2004-2013 Executive Presbyter, Presbytery of Plains and Peaks, Greeley, Colo.
  • Forty-three churches, three immigrant fellowships, 11,000 peak membership in Colorado and Nebraska
  • Guided comprehensive revision of presbytery mission and structure to leaner, more
missional design
• Served as mentor, teacher, adviser to parish ministers
• Frequent teacher and retreat leader (see partial list at dansaperstein.blogspot.com)

1990-2004 Pastor, Pullman Presbyterian Church, Pullman, Washington
• 280 peak membership church in university community; host/spONSor to Korean and Chinese immigrant congregations
• Spearheaded $1.6 million sanctuary and renovation project
• Led comprehensive congregational mission study
• Successfully launched contemporary outreach service
• Supervised two parish associates and fourteen full- and part-time staff

1986-1990 Pastor, Westvale Presbyterian Church, West Valley City, Utah
• 130 peak membership church in predominantly Mormon area of Salt Lake Valley
• Led revitalization effort, lifted congregation to financial self-sufficiency
• Established food bank/commodities distribution center

1983-1986 Associate Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Boise, Idaho
• 800-member downtown church in state capital
• Generalist position with emphasis on youth, pastoral care, outreach
• Inaugurated University Student Ministry, Peace & Justice Ministry

Throughout the search for our candidate the team spent a great deal of time listening to members of the presbytery, the Coordinating Team and the presbytery staff about both issues and opportunities facing us. Clearly, Dan brings a wide range of experience coupled with a broad and solid education to help us address the issues and opportunities that were identified. One of the key needs is that the EP function as a pastor to pastors. Here are some of Dan's thoughts:

“Ministry is built on relationships. The essence of the pastoral ministry – whether to pastors or parishioners – is grounded in relationships based on availability, compassionate listening, trust, and prayer. As pastor to pastors, I would especially come alongside those pastors with special needs, both by personal contact and prayer. While it is always my goal to develop positive relationships with all the pastors of the presbytery, sometimes other factors impede their development. Some pastors may not be open to building the relationship. That needs to be respected, though I would remain open and available to them. Other times there might be role conflicts which impede the relationship. My first responsibility as executive presbyter is to the health and safety of the presbytery and its constituent churches. In those rare situations where a role conflict might exist, I would work with the COM to provide necessary pastoral care and advocacy for the pastors. Nevertheless, it is my hope and desire that by building relationships of trust and prayer with pastors in the presbytery that they would welcome my pastoral care, counsel, and support.”

In the next Bi-Weekly Brief we will share some of the Rev. Saperstein's thoughts on how we go about creating and implementing a cohesive presbytery vision.

You are invited to attend a gathering on Sunday afternoon, September 13 from 2:00pm – 4:00pm at Saginaw First to meet and talk with Dan. Mark your calendars!