



# The Grapevine

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower.*

*John 15:1*

## Announcement from the Transitional (Interim) Pastor Search Committee



We are excited to announce that **Anne Fisher** was approved by Session on June 20, 2016, to be PPC's Transitional (Interim) Pastor. She will begin on September 15, 2016. We've tried to anticipate some of your questions with the information below.

**Background:** Anne's background is with Transitional Ministry. She has M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary and her D.Min. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Anne has been doing Transitional Ministry in the Chicago area for over 15 years in churches of various sizes. She served as Moderator of both the Commission on Ministry and the Permanent Judicial Commission

of the Chicago Presbytery. Her husband, Gregg Dana, a minister and counselor, recently retired allowing them to move and explore new places. They are taking some time to travel and visit family before Anne starts her ministry at PPC.

### What References Said:

"She has had every kind of church during her years in Transitional Ministry."

"Great integrity, energy and enthusiasm."

"She is a super strong leader."

"Anne is a breath of fresh air who enjoys the challenge of Transitional Ministry."

"Congregation and Session grew stronger while she was here."

"Good administrator with excellent follow-through."

**Process:** In late January/early February, the Transitional Pastor job description and the members of the Transitional Pastor Search Committee (TPSC) were approved by Session. The members are: Sandy Hawley and Jan Lillemo from Session, Gary Gabe from Deacons, Erik Koehler and Kyle Larson, members-at-large and Carla Bahls from the Personnel Committee. The TPSC developed a cover letter and short ad to be posted on the Presbytery website. We worked with the Committee on Ministry (COM) to identify potential candidates; we developed interview questions and conducted interviews. The TPSC learned that all candidates must be approved by the COM and there have been only a few Transitional Pastors available because of a sudden surge in need by numerous churches. After unanimously agreeing that Anne was the best candidate for PPC because of her depth of experience and her responses to our questions, we recommended her hiring to Session. The contract with Anne is a three-way contract between the pastor, the church (through the Session), and the presbytery. Anne will be with us for up to two years.

The next steps will be to continue to work on a vision for PPC's future through the Ministry in a Changing World process, determine what qualifications and qualities we want in a new pastor and elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The PNC will work through a similar process for identifying, interviewing, selecting and then recommending an installed Pastor, whose hiring is approved by the Congregation.

**July through September 15:** Working with COM, the Committee on Ministry, we hired someone to work part-time from mid-July until September 11. This hiring gives PPC some consistency from week to week and provide pastoral care. There is an article about our new Part-time Pulpit Supply, Al Pruis, in this Grapevine.

**Thank you:** The Transitional Pastor Search Committee would like to thank Jim Brasel, our COM representative, and the Committee on Ministry for their help in our search.

Plymouth Presbyterian Church  
3755 Dunkirk Ln N Plymouth, MN 55446  
763-559-2946 [www.plymouthpc.org](http://www.plymouthpc.org)

## **Calendar for July 15 - August 15:**

### **Sunday, July 17**

9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:45 a.m. Prayer Chain Group

### **Monday, July 18**

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

### **Tuesday, July 19**

6:30 p.m. Zumba Class  
7:00 p.m. Worship Ministry Meeting

### **Wednesday, July 20**

5:30 a.m. Christian Formation Ministry Mtg.  
7:00 p.m. Building and Grounds Committee

### **Sunday, July 24**

9:30 a.m. Worship

### **Monday, July 25**

7:00 p.m. Book Club

### **Tuesday, July 26**

6:30 p.m. Zumba Class

### **Sunday, July 31**

8:30 a.m. Mission Ministry Meeting  
9:30 a.m. Worship

### **Tuesday, August 2**

6:30 p.m. Zumba Class

### **Sunday, August 7**

8:30 a.m. Mission Ministry Meeting  
9:30 a.m. Worship - Communion

### **Tuesday, August 9**

6:30 p.m. Zumba Class

### **Wednesday, August 10**

12:00 p.m. **GRAPEVINE DEADLINE**

6:00 p.m. Deacons Meeting

### **Saturday, August 13**

9:30 p.m. Baker's Group

### **Sunday, August 14**

9:30 a.m. Worship  
11:00 a.m. Gal's Gathering

### **Monday, August 15**

7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

## **Notes from the Church Office:**

**Grapevine** The Grapevine comes out once a month in the summer, on the 15th. The next deadline for submitting articles is August 10.

**Summer Office Hours:** Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

## **Part-Time Pulpit Supply**

We are excited to announce that Al Pruis was approved by Session on July 11, 2016 to be PPC's Temporary Pulpit Supply from July 13 until September 11, 2016. In addition to preaching on Sundays, his duties include pastoral care and working with staff and committees as we prepare for the fall. He will be working 20 hours per week and will work in the church office at least two days per week.

Al's background is with the Reformed Church of America (RCA). He did his Interim Training with the PCUSA. He started serving as a pastor in churches over 30 years ago and just completed his first Interim Ministry position at American Reformed Church in Worthington, MN. He has been to Haiti five times with mission teams.



## **Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area**

**Invite you to their Fall Gathering**

Saturday, October 15  
Calvin Presbyterian Church, Long Lake  
(more information to follow)

**Please share this date with your church friends!**



**Join the PPC Book Club on Monday, July 25 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room** as they discuss the book *Dear Committee Members* by Julie Schumacher.

Jason Fitger is a beleaguered professor of creative writing and literature at Payne University, a small and not very distinguished liberal arts college in the midwest. His once-promising writing career is in the doldrums, as is his romantic life, in part as the result of his unwise use of his private affairs for his novels. In short, his life is a tale of woe, and the vehicle this droll and inventive novel uses to tell that tale is a series of hilarious letters of recommendation that Fitger is endlessly called upon by his students and colleagues to produce, each one of which is a small masterpiece of high dudgeon, low spirits, and passive-aggressive strategies.

## **Worship Volunteers**

### **Sunday, July 17**

**Preaching** - Rev. Al Pruis

**Worship Leader** - Gordon Doshier

**Ushers** - PPC Deacons

**Greeters** - PPC Deacons

**Children's Message** - Rev. Al Pruis

**Fellowship** - PPC Deacons

**Counters** - Amy Leaf

### **Sunday, July 24**

**Preaching** - Rev. Al Pruis

**Worship Leader** - Jim Latimer

**Ushers** - Laurie Latimer

**Greeters** - JoJo Kipp and Amy Leaf

**Children's Message** - Rev. Al Pruis

**Fellowship** - **Volunteers Needed**

**Counters** - Tim Hammelman and Kathy Manlapas

### **Sunday, July 31**

**Preaching** -

**Worship Leader** - Shari Durdin

**Ushers** - **Volunteers Needed**

**Greeters** - Jim and Laurie Latimer

**Children's Message** -

**Fellowship** - **Volunteers Needed**

**Counters** - Tim Hammelman and Kathy Manlapas

### **Sunday, August 7**

**Preaching** - Rev. Al Pruis

**Worship Leader** - Lu Wilmot

**Ushers** - PPC Session

**Greeters** - PPC Session

**Children's Message** - Rev. Al Pruis

**Fellowship** - **Volunteers Needed**

**Counters** - **Volunteers Needed**

### **Sunday, August 14**

**Preaching** - Rev. Al Pruis

**Worship Leader** - Irv Tang

**Ushers** - **Volunteers Needed**

**Greeter** - Nancy Tang

**Children's Message** - Rev. Al Pruis

**Fellowship** - **Volunteers Needed**

**Counters** - **Volunteers Needed**

## **Women's Chrysalis Retreat - Clearwater**

Pack your swimsuits and Bibles, ladies, and an item to tie-dye! It's time to register for Clearwater Chrysalis, a women's retreat at Clearwater Forest camp, August 18-21. Go a day early for Quilting/Gardening Day. The flyer, the schedule of activities and registration are available on the Clearwater website at:

<http://clearwaterforest.org/retreats/adult-retreats/clearwater-chrysalis/>.

Rev. Theresa Cho, from San Francisco, will lead us in the theme "Live Into Hope," as we learn about facing change as Christians in the 21st Century. Then there are the workshops: a Bible study, a book discussion, Edible Landscaping, Loons, Dreamcatchers and more. Or just come for the peace and beauty of the north woods and the good company. If you want to know more, there are plenty of Chrysalis campers in the congregation who can answer your questions. Carole Marsh has attended every summer Chrysalis since it began in 1984.

---

**Mission Ministry** - Joanne Mann

**School Supply Drive** The new school

year will be here before you know it and the Mission Ministry is collecting school supplies to help students have

the tools for a successful school experience. The list of most needed items is on a table in the narthex next to the school supplies drop box. The deadline for donations is Sunday, August 14. Let's see if we can fill the tables again this year!



**During the month of June, 22 pounds of food donations were delivered to CROSS, Rogers, MN.** This non-profit organization serves the communities of Rogers, Maple Grove, Osseo, Champlin (West), Corcoran and Dayton.

**The Chain of Lakes Church in Blaine** has their summer services on Wednesdays so those who are out of town on the weekend have an opportunity to worship during the week. This mid-week service is called Sundaes on Wednesdays as they service ice cream and toppings after their service. In support of this new and vital church in the Blaine community, the PPC Mission Ministry donated \$250

*"Great acts are made up of small deeds."*

Lao Tzu



## **GOD IS TURNING THE WORLD:**

THE 222<sup>ND</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH (U.S.A.) » **Portland, Oregon** » June 18-25, 2016

**BY LESLIE SCANLON**, *Outlook* national reporter

**C**ommissioners to the 2016 General Assembly sang “The Cantic of Turning” more than once while gathered in Portland to elect new leadership and consider business ranging from climate change to church confessions. They sang, “Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.”

After the assembly took several historic actions — choosing female co-moderators; adding the Confession of Belhar from South Africa to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions; and electing the PC(USA)’s first African-American stated clerk — this felt to many like a time of turning for the church.

Themes of reconciliation and justice — particularly racial justice — were woven through the week. Plenary sessions began with personal testimonies — for example, Therese Taylor-Stinson, moderator of National Capital Presbytery, describing her rise in leadership in her church and then hearing someone say: “The little colored girl is in charge today.” Participants recited together almost as a litany sections from the Belhar confession, affirming the biblical mandate of unity won for us in Jesus Christ.

As the country struggled again in the wake of the violent massacre in Orlando, as floods devastated parts of the country, and as the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, Presbyterians sang, “This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.” Prayerfully, the actions of the 222nd General Assembly are part of that transformation.

Some highlights of the assembly:

**BELHAR.** It took the PC(USA) two tries and more than six years to adopt Belhar — which was written in the heart of South Africa’s struggle against apartheid. It becomes the first PC(USA) confession from the global south. Godfrey Betha, vice moderator of the Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa, told the assembly: “Your decision affirms you say to your children, you say to all, ‘When you come to us looking for a glimmer of racism, don’t come to our church.’”

**NEW AND DIVERSE LEADERSHIP.** This assembly marked an historic change in leadership. On June 24, the assembly elected J. Herbert Nelson II, a third-generation Presbyterian pastor and the director of the denomination’s Office

of Public Witness, to a four-year term as stated clerk, replacing Gradye Parsons, who is retiring.

Nelson becomes the PC(USA)'s first African-American stated clerk. The assembly also made history in choosing T. Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, both teaching elders, as its co-moderators. It's the first time an assembly has elected co-moderators (rather than a moderator and vice moderator) and the first all-female moderatorial team; Anderson — who is African-American — is, at 37, the youngest moderator ever elected.

**2020 VISION TEAM.** Responding to an idea from its The Way Forward committee, the assembly voted to create a 15-person “2020 Vision Team” to set a new vision for the denomination by 2020. The vision team will draft a guiding statement to “help us to name and claim our denominational identity as we seek to follow the Spirit into the future.”

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION.** Responding in part to concerns raised by review committees for the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly, the assembly voted to create a 12-member administrative commission with the power to determine the structure and function of General Assembly agencies.

**MIDDLE EAST.** The assembly adopted an amended version of a report called “For Human Values in the Absence of a Just Peace” — which addresses Israel's violations of Palestinians' human rights. The assembly also reaffirmed the PC(USA)'s long-standing call for a two-state solution in Israel-Palestine.

**FOSSIL FUELS.** Choosing an approach some described as a “middle way,” the assembly voted 391-161 to pursue a process of trying to influence energy companies through stockholder engagement rather than divesting comprehensively from fossil fuel companies. Some commissioners contended Presbyterians have a moral obligation to act swiftly and boldly to reduce their carbon footprint.

**APOLOGY.** By a vote of 463-51, the assembly stopped short of issuing an outright apology to people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer or questioning — but voiced the church's deep “regret that, due to human failings, any person might find cause to doubt being loved by God” and the denomination's “deep sorrow” over members and congregations who have left over disagreements regarding sexual orientation.

**HOPE.** The new leaders both challenged the PC(USA) to become more diverse and engaged with a hurting world, and sounded a theological vision of hope. Edmiston called on Presbyterians to “look at what breaks God's heart in your neighborhood,” and then to act.

“We are not dead. We are alive,” Nelson said of the PC(USA). Led by God, “we are transforming the world, one person at a time.” ●

*Visit [pres-outlook.org](http://pres-outlook.org) for more.*