



Board Chair Announcement

With Jordan's leaving, the board met in August at a special meeting to consider what options are available to us. Before I get to that, it is important to provide a bit of background. The old process when a minister left a congregation was to do a Joint Needs Assessment. Now – there is no JNAC. Rather, everything is now online on what is called ***the ChurchHub***. The ChurchHub is a nation-wide giant repository of information about each church or pastoral charge, minister, and congregation.

When a minister leaves a congregation, it usually kick-starts some kind of visioning process. The visioning, if done well, should be an honest evaluation of where we are now, where we want to be, and what is the road map to get us there.

As you know, St. Martin's had already started on that journey before we or Jordan knew that she was leaving. The need for this work came about for a number of reasons, including COVID and how that changed life, work, and worship, and because St. Martin's is struggling financially, and we have been for several years. It has become crystal clear that we cannot continue to be viable unless we do something to ensure financial solvency.

In response to that, we put together a team who began meeting this summer, to work on that very question: what options do we have as a church to achieve financial solvency? That task group will provide their interim report to the board

in November. Their final report, complete with recommendations and next steps, is due in time for the board meeting in January 2024.

Because we are already in the midst of this aspect of visioning, the board of St. Martin's wisely decided that the other visioning pieces will be done early in the new year when we have the insight from that task group.

Taking all of this into consideration, the board, at that August meeting, unanimously voted to search for a .5 ministry appointment to begin November 1, 2023 for a one-year term. To be clear, an appointment is not the same as a call. An appointment is a time-limited position, and in this case, it is meant to assist with ministry coverage while St. Martin's does the work we need to do. The board is in the midst of getting the ChurchHub profile updated, which is where the .5 appointment will be posted. Some of us are in the process of talking to retired ministers who may be interested, but it is highly unlikely that we will get someone in place for November 1, 2023. That means that Keith will be flying solo. It will not be possible for one minister to meet all of the ministry needs of St. Martin's. And, even when we do fill the .5 appointment, there will continue to be large gaps in the ministry we are able to provide. Please know that the staff and the board are working hard to keep St. Martin's up and running as smoothly as possible.

Future announcements will be provided when more or new information becomes available. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me or any member of the board.

Blessings on behalf of the board of St. Martin's

Bette Brazier
Board Chair