

Glenn McDonald FAQs



Q: Is it true that Glenn McDonald has accepted a new call?

A: Yes. Glenn will be the director of workplace spirituality at a new corporate arm of Ascension Health, a not-for-profit health organization that encompasses about 500 hospitals and health care facilities from coast to coast. His call is to create and sustain a culture of “leading like Jesus” in the Ministry Service Center that is set to open about three miles south of ZPC in just a few weeks. The details of Glenn’s new call were discussed in a letter he emailed to the congregation on June 9, 2011. Copies of this letter are available at the Welcome Center.

Q: When does Glenn’s new call begin?

A: Glenn’s new call at Ascension Health begins on July 11. He has already begun to wind down his time at ZPC, but will preach through the end of July. His last weekend preaching at ZPC will be Sunday, July 31.

Q: What’s the process to release Glenn from his call at ZPC to his new call?

A: A special meeting of the congregation has been called for on Sunday, July 10 at 11:30 am for members to vote to dissolve Glenn’s pastoral relationship with ZPC. This is the official process that a Presbyterian Church (USA) uses to release pastors from service.

Q: How are we celebrating Glenn’s 28 years of leadership at ZPC?

A: A team of people is in the process of planning a dinner celebration on Saturday, July 30 at 6 pm at ZPC. Save the date! Details are still being worked out, so watch the website and bulletin for information.

Q: After Glenn has been released from this call at ZPC, will he be able to officiate at my daughter’s wedding or grandmother’s funeral in the future?

A: No. When a pastor is released from his call, he becomes a “former pastor” and the Presbytery’s “Policy Concerning Former Pastors” goes into effect. Both Glenn and the Presbytery have agreed that he will not officiate any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc. for a period of two years unless expressly invited by the Moderator of the Session. This policy helps the former senior pastor fully embrace his new role and allows the congregation to engage and establish new pastoral relationships.

Q: Will Glenn continue to worship here?

A: No. Conforming to the Presbytery’s “Policy Concerning Former Pastors” Glenn and the Presbytery have agreed that Glenn will consult with the Moderator of the Session prior to visiting the congregation, attending worship or attending a special event in the lives of congregational members or in the life of the congregation itself. This policy helps the former senior pastor fully embrace his new role and allows the congregation to engage and establish new pastoral relationships.

Q: Will there be an interim senior pastor and if so, when?

A: Yes. Ideally, this person would be in place in the next two to three months.

Q: Why call an interim senior pastor vs. calling a new installed senior pastor?

A: Pastors serving as an interim pastor have received special training and are equipped to facilitate the transition process to a new installed senior pastor.

Q: What's the process to engage an interim senior pastor?

A: The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry (COM) creates a short list of potential candidates based on the character and needs of the church and presents this list to ZPC's session. The session as a whole, or a subset of session, will act as a search committee. Session conducts interviews and extends an offer to the final candidate.

Q: How long will the interim senior pastor be in place at ZPC?

The COM has recommended that the interim senior pastor should be at ZPC for a period of at least 1-2 years.

Q: Will the interim preach as much as Glenn?

A: The preaching schedule will be decided by the interim senior pastor, associate pastors, and the worship prep team.

Q: When does the search process for a new installed senior pastor begin?

A: We anticipate the search process for an installed senior pastor will begin this fall.

Q: How long is the process to call a new installed senior pastor?

A: We anticipate the search process for an installed senior pastor to take from 12-18 months.

Q: Who guides the search for a new installed senior pastor?

A: A Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC) is established by congregational vote to seek a new installed senior pastor. This committee is made up of members of the congregation.

Q: Is the interim involved in the process of calling a new installed senior pastor?

A: No.

Q: Can a ZPC associate pastor be promoted and become the new installed senior pastor?

A: No.

Q: What's the process of installing a new senior pastor?

A: A church resume (called a church information form) is created that articulates who Zionsville Presbyterian Church is to potential candidates. The Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC), working with Whitewater Valley Presbytery COM, receives potential candidates and identifies those that might be a good fit. Through the interviewing process, prayer, and guidance by the Holy Spirit, final candidates are identified. The PNC would also listen to final candidates preach a message in the church in which they are currently serving or in another local PC(USA) church. The final candidate would need to be approved by our presbytery, (if currently serving elsewhere) would go through the releasing process, and finally, preach a sermon at ZPC and be approved by the congregation through a congregational vote of the members.