

First Christian Caller

First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

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No. 5



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Search and Call Committee Update *by Carol Madere*

As the chair of the Search and Call Committee, I am pleased to announce that the committee has voted to recommend Rev. Dr. Dedrick Minor to be our permanent senior minister.

This decision was made after an eight-month process which included preparing a congregational profile, surveying the congregation about its preferences for our next minister, and reviewing the ministerial profiles provided to us by the Region. After reviewing over 25 profiles, we concluded that there were only about five candidates who merited further consideration. The other candidates were rejected for the one of the following reasons: (1) the candidate expressed a preference for staying in the region where s/he currently resided; (2) the candidate was looking for a congregation with characteristics which ours doesn't possess; (3) the candidate preferred a larger church than we have; or, (4) our congregation couldn't fulfill the candidate's salary expectations.

Of the five candidates we decided to consider further, Pastor Minor seemed to best fit the characteristics our church had identified as important in the congregational survey. Those qualities included being an effective preacher/speaker; helping people develop their own spiritual life; effectively ministering to people in crisis; making pastoral calls on members unable to come to church; and, being accepting of people with different backgrounds and traditions. We were advised by the regional minister to pursue only one candidate at a time, so we decided to interview him first.

The committee met with Pastor Minor and interviewed him regarding his vision for the church and how he felt he could best serve the church. We also discussed with him the constraints of being a bi-vocational minister, serving our congregation while continuing his work at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital, and he assured us that he will always be available when the church needs him. At the end of the meeting, he was excused, and the committee voted unanimously to call him as our next senior minister. I presented our recommendation to the General Board on March 15. The Board voted unanimously to accept our recommendation to call Pastor Minor.

As many of you are aware, the Search and Call process has multiple steps before a new senior minister can be officially hired. The next step involves the Search and Call Committee negotiating terms of a job offer with the candidate in conjunction with review and recommendations of the Finance and Pastoral Relations committees. Those terms will be shared with the congregation once agreed upon and prior to the congregational meeting. The last steps involve the church hosting a "meet the candidate" fellowship event and then having a congregational meeting to vote on said candidate.

On Saturday, April 30, we will host a fellowship meal to be followed by Pastor Minor speaking to share his vision of the future for the church and tell us more about what he feels God is calling him to do here. After that, we will open the floor for members who might have questions for the candidate.

Normally, this would be a time for the congregation to meet a prospective candidate for the first time. In our unique situation, we have had a chance to get to know Pastor Minor already. However, we take this whole process very seriously and we recognize that not everyone may have been thinking along the same lines and considering him for senior minister before now, or perhaps you haven't had a chance to speak with him before now, or maybe you just have some questions you'd like to hear any candidate's take on. We encourage you to turn out and take advantage of this opportunity to ask your questions, so that you can make the most informed decision possible when we vote the next day.

Board Chair Pam Jones has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, May 1, immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service to vote on candidate Dedrick Minor for the position of Senior Minister of First Christian Church of Baton Rouge (DOC).

I'd like to thank each member of the Search and Call Committee, who have met diligently for eight months to discern God's will for the leadership of our congregation. They include Vicki Krupala, Lucy Cody, Carmen Jones, Ed Atkins, Frank Dickinson, Mike Wilson, and Dak McInnis.

We ask that each of you continue to keep the Search and Call Committee, as well as Pastor Minor, in your prayers as we all take the next steps in this process together. God Bless.

Thank You! by Pam Jones

I would like to take a moment to recognize the team that comprises the Search and Call Committee and thank them for their efforts to date: Carol Madere, Dak McInnis, Lucy Cody, Frank Dickinson, Carmen Jones, Ed Atkins, Vicki Krupala and Mike Wilson. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for how diligent you have been over these past few months, how much work you have consistently put into this search process, and how seriously and prayerfully you have considered each step along the way. Your efforts on behalf of all of us as we look towards the future God has in store for FCCBR are so greatly appreciated by the rest of us. Even as a candidate is being presented to the congregation, the committee's work is not done and I hope everyone will join me in continuing to lift them up in prayer as we move forward.

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Outreach at First Christian Church, Baton Rouge

As we begin a new church service year, and as we can resume core activities that were put on pandemic hold, we are seeking ways that we might serve God's kingdom in 2022. At the Board meeting held on March 15, it was announced that Judy Lester will lead our Outreach Committee this year. After consulting with Reverend Minor and lay leadership, a decision was made that we would ease into this initiative by focusing our efforts in areas where we already have strong connections. The areas preliminarily identified were: Southeast Ministries, Istrouma Middle School (Aaron Turnipseed's school), and CASA.

ISTROUMA MIDDLE SCHOOL: There are two service opportunities ready for us:

1. **5K Run sponsorship** – (April 23, 2022) Istrouma allocates very little money for its music department (\$3-500 annually for all classes). Aaron is again asking for financial sponsorship of his 5K run to help augment the program. FCCBR has benefited greatly from the participation of these young musicians in our cantatas and other worship services. We hope to continue our relationship with them and be a positive influence in their lives, as they are in ours.

2. **Venue and hosting an "end-of-year" choral program** – (May 18, 2022) FCCBR will host an Istrouma student choral performance, tentatively scheduled Wednesday, May 18, at 7:00 p.m. We plan to provide a reception in the fellowship hall after the performance for the students and their families. We will need volunteers to help decorate, set up, clean up, prepare food, and serve. Sign-up sheets will be posted soon, as the plans are confirmed. We hope that our entire congregation will attend to support Aaron and his students!

SOUTHEAST MINISTRIES: We are a supporting church of the Southeast Ministries Food Bank. All donations are welcomed and appreciated, but the Outreach Committee would like to also highlight a specific item or category each month for your consideration.

Since everybody deserves a treat occasionally, we'd like to designate sweets for the month of April. This can include items such as cake mixes, brownie mixes, pudding mixes, cookie mixes, etc. Please bring your donations to the church and place in the narthex. Wanda Lax and Charlene Landry will make arrangements to have the donations delivered to Southeast ministries.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep." —John 21:15-17

Upcoming Events

Easter Lilies - Sunday, April 3, is the last day to order an Easter lily for the church as a memorial or thank offering. Check out the form in Sunday's bulletin, or order (and pay!) online by clicking [here](#), or visit fccbrla.org/#2022lily

Palm Sunday - Join us on Sunday, April 10, for the Easter Cantata. Also on this date we will be holding a baptism service for our four youth who are going through the Pastor's Class. Please turn out to help us honor Collin Landry, Kinzley McCoy, Leonardo Morgan, and Jordan Bourgeois as they take this important step in their faith journey.

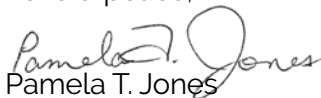
Easter Sunday, April 17 at 10:00 a.m. - We look forward to seeing everyone as we celebrate our Risen Lord & Savior

Trimming Down the Tech Troubles

As many of you are aware, we have been plagued by tech issues for some time now on multiple fronts — sound, video, Internet, livestream — and God bless our dedicated volunteers who have labored to deal with each issue as it arose, find workarounds, and just generally keep us functioning. As Pastor Minor shared a couple of weeks ago, we engaged the services of an outside consultant to come in and assess our systems and software to troubleshoot the issues we've been experiencing. Based on the recommendations we received, we have purchased a new computer for the sanctuary to run the worship program, switched to a new software called Easy Worship to build our weekly program, and installed two Pan-Tilt-Zoom cameras at the rear of the sanctuary. We aren't done yet, and sound is the next big item to address, but we hope you are already seeing the difference in the appearance of our service online beginning with the March 13 service and going forward.

Many thanks to our volunteers who work to build the program, run the sound board, run the video program, and operate the livestream each week. The new equipment is great and we feel that investing in this gear was a worthwhile purchase, but without our wonderful members who give of their time regularly, it's just gear that would be sitting there benefitting no one. Please join me in thanking the following individuals who regularly contribute to our service on the tech front: Anderson Krupala, Callie Cody, Carol Madere, Frank Dickinson, Greg Taliaferro, Jeff Cody, Jill Brian, Nico Morgan, Sue Grigg, and Ted Baldwin.

Love & peace,


Pamela T. Jones

Chair, FCC General Board

SUNDAY ASSIGNMENTS

Please check your worship assignments in advance and arrange for a sub in the case of a scheduling conflict. We appreciate that very much! You can check assignments [online, here](#), or contact Brenda in the church office at 225-926-4175.

April 3, 2022

Church Opening Marion Denova
Sacraments Jerry Hilgendorf
Greeter Lisa Fennell
Deacons David Fennell, Lisa Fennell, Dak McInnis, Sherry McInnis
Liturgist Kristin Morgan
Youth Reader Anderson Krupala
Children's Moment Ashley Bourgeois
Elder Judy Lester
Video Tech Nicolas Morgan
Sound Tech Jeff Cody
Livestream Brenda Hilgendorf
Church Closing Jerry Hilgendorf
Program Builder Jeff Cody

April 17, 2022

Church Opening Pam Jones
Sacraments Jerry Hilgendorf
Greeter Anderson Krupala
Deacons Steve Gibson, Anderson Krupala, Bill Trotter, Lorry Trotter
Liturgist Judy Lester
Youth Reader Zachary Trotter
Children's Moment Crystal Casaroti
Elder Michael Wilson
Video Tech Anderson Krupala
Sound Tech Jeff Cody
Livestream Brenda Hilgendorf
Church Closing Tony Fatta
Program Builder Jill Brian

April 10, 2022

Church Opening David Fennell
Sacraments Jerry Hilgendorf
Greeter Jeff Cody
Deacons Callie Cody, Jeff Cody, Shelly Cody, Greg Comeaux
Liturgist Sherry McInnis
Youth Reader Callie Cody
Children's Moment Carol Madere
Elder Chris Culp
Video Tech Jeff Cody
Sound Tech Greg Taliaferro
Livestream Brenda Hilgendorf
Church Closing Aaron Turnipseed
Program Builder Carol Madere

April 24, 2022

Church Opening James Morgan
Sacraments Jerry Hilgendorf
Greeter George Gullett
Deacons Lee Gullett, George Gullett, Presley Hutchinson, Joann Taliaferro
Liturgist Bill Trotter
Youth Reader Leonardo Morgan
Children's Moment Tip Tipton
Elder Frank Dickinson
Video Tech Callie Cody
Sound Tech Greg Taliaferro
Livestream Brenda Hilgendorf
Church Closing Cathi Pourciau
Program Builder Jeff Cody

Prayer List

The following people represent some of the current concerns at First Christian Church. If you would like to have a name added, update a current prayer request, or remove someone from the prayer list, please fill out the prayer request section of our [online check-in page](#), or contact us at churchoffice@fccbrla.org, or 225-926-4175. Names generally rotate off after 30, 60, or 90 days without an update, depending on the nature of the original request.

Members in our prayers:

JD Albin, Ron & Dora Blackburn, Bill & Lois Burt, Norma Carr, Nancy Chapaneri, Jody Chrisope, Pam Culp, Marion & Martha Denova, Nancy Fatta, Paul Foster, Rich Griswold, Lee Gullett, Ruth Horn, Presley Hutchinson, Beryl Jacques, Jane Johnson, Marie Ladner, Ann Landry, Charlene Landry, William Miguez, Helen Mitchener, Kristin Morgan, Jerry Moses, Bob & Jennifer Netterville, Helen Rankin, Kelly & Gladys Runnels, Zachary Trotter, Wally & Beverly Weselak, Toni Wilson, FCC Search Committee

Friends & Family of Members in our prayers:

Arthur Bates, Shirley Bingham, the family of Judy Barbay, the family of Jill Bihm, Christian Boatner, Don & Donna Bohlcke, the Elba Calderon Family, Angela Marie Avansi Casarotti, Roger Clites, Katrina Donoho, the family of Ethel Droptini, Dean Fife, Hugh Foster, Nathaniel Gosnell, Jeff Judice, Nina Kincaid, Bill Lacy, Dale Ludwig, Ramagos family, the family of James Rudd, Alyssa Russell, the Soni family, Kevin Swilley, Jennifer Thompson, Nick Tullier, the family of Mary Jon Turner, Lori Wells, John Whitworth

Members in Active Military Service:

PFC Gage Goodspeed

April Calendar Notes

<i>Day/Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Description</i>
Saturday, April 2	10:30 a.m.	Pastor's Class (Church Office)
Monday, April 4	6:30 p.m.	Elders Meeting (YB)
Saturday, April 9	10:30 a.m.	Pastor's Class (Church Office)
Sunday, April 10	10:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday / Easter Cantata / Service of Baptism
Friday, April 15		Good Friday
Sunday, April 17	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday Celebration
Monday, April 18		<i>Easter Monday - Church Office closed</i>
Wednesday, April 27	9:30 a.m.	Disciple Women (YB)
Saturday, April 30	11:00 a.m.	<i>Meet the Candidate Fellowship Meal</i>

Ongoing Meetings:

Thursdays	9:30 a.m.	Silver Angels (YB)
Wednesdays	6:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Church)



First Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

8484 Old Hammond Hwy.
Baton Rouge, LA 70809-1317
225-926-4175 | fccbrla.org

SERVICE AT 10:00 AM EACH SUNDAY - IN PERSON and ONLINE

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION AND ONLINE LINKS:

Church Office Phone: 225-926-4175

Email: churchoffice@fccbrla.org

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs 9am - 3 pm

The Rev. Dr. Dedrick Minor, *Transitional Minister*

Email: dedrick@fccbrla.org

Minister's Hours: Wed. 4-7 pm; Sat. 10:30 am-1:00 pm and by appointment

Aaron Turnipseed, M.M.P., *Director of Music*

João Casarotti, D.M.A., *Accompanist*

Brenda Hilgendorf, *Administrator/Bookkeeper*

Charles Riddle, *Facilities*

Website: fccbrla.org YouTube Video Channel: youtube.com/fccbrla

Facebook: facebook.com/fccbrla Twitter: twitter.com/fccbrla

Instagram: instagram.com/fccbrla

The daily Scripture readings for April are available online: [Click here](#) for Year C readings (or visit lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/daily.php?year=C). Links to the Sunday lectionary are within the listings on that page. If you need a hard copy for your daily use, please contact us at the church office, and we'll get one out to you!