



# Good News for the Pews

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From Pastor Don

Very soon, sometime after our annual English Congregational Meeting, we will gather together again, officially, to elect our Pastor Nominating Committee, or PNC. That small group will have a rather big task ahead of them, that being to search for, interview, and then provide a finalist candidate to come and meet the congregation before being voted upon as the EWC's next pastor. Before they begin their interviews, the PNC will be spending time reviewing the Mission Study Report, not because it contains the search criteria for the next pastor, it doesn't, but because they will need to keep the Envisioning and Goals section of the report top of their minds as they review applications, called Personal Informational Forms (PIFs). Eventually, they begin their interview process.

Then the PNC, working with the Personnel Committee and the English Commission, will produce an online profile of our worshipping community that will also express what we are looking for in a new leader. This is called a Mission Information Form, or MIF. There is an online database which helps to match MIFs with PIFs. Now most of you are past the point in your lives where you are using online dating apps to find new relationship partners, but this process is actually quite similar. Matching MIFs to PIFs is how things start, but the potential candidates will be doing more than just reading. The potential candidates will be making use of something called *theological imagination* to see if they can envision themselves here and envisioning themselves to help the EWC achieve its goals. Kind of like dating (if you remember), they will be thinking of the EWC and trying to imagine themselves here.

So what does that mean? In addition to reading the online MIF, candidates will be looking at our website and looking to see if we have a social media presence. They will be looking at our Mission Study Report and they will be praying and trying to discern if they see themselves helping the EWC achieve the things listed in the Envisioning and Goals section. They will be trying to imagine themselves in this place and with this community. If they can see their own gifts and skills adding to, and helping the EWC to achieve its goals, they will be motivated to enter into relationship with this community.

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