

## THE TRANSITIONAL TASK GROUP

After Pastor Jonathan B. Knight announced his plans to retire at the end of April, 2016, the Session appointed a forward-looking group, known as the Transitional Task Group (or TTG for short). Their purpose was to help the congregation be prepared to seek pastoral leadership once the Rev. Knight retired.

The Transitional Task Group first met in April 2015 so that all the groundwork could be done prior to the pastor's retirement a year later and so that the search for an interim pastor could begin in 2016 with the hope of having an interim pastor in place soon upon the retirement of the Pastor.

They had quite a bit of work to accomplish. The tasks laid out for this group included

- Review the church Bylaws for accuracy
- Investigate possible hosts for a church website
- Get all the church committees to review their committee description and to update it to reflect the current work of the committee
- Get the Personnel Committee to review and update job descriptions
- Devise ways to get input from the congregation about their expectations
- Based on input from the congregation and their own work, prepare the Ministry Information Form (MIF) to seek and interim pastor and a Mission Statement
- Explore how other churches secure interim and called pastors

And the Transition Task Group accomplished a lot. The Bylaws review revealed that the congregation needed to approve a change from 15 to 12 ruling elders on the Session. SteepleConnect was chosen to host the church website. Committee descriptions and job descriptions were review and updated as needed.

Three congregational gatherings known as Mission Study Meetings were held after worship in September, October and November. In these meetings the Transition Task Group sought input from the congregation for answering four narrative questions on the Ministry Information Form.

Based on these meetings and their own work, the task group was able to formulate the answers to the four narrative questions (see Appendix A), complete all the other information required for the MIF and write a Mission Statement (see below). The task of "exploring how other churches secure interim and called pastors" was left to the Interim Pastor Search Committee.

The Transitional Task Group faithfully completed their assigned tasks in a timely manner. In so doing they also did a good job of capturing and summarizing the current congregation's preferences around those specific topics.

The Session approved the Mission Statement and the Ministry Information Form (MIF) and appointed the Interim Pastor Search Committee.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads, NY  
(December 2015)

We seek to show Christ's love through our actions by:

Ministering to our Community – helping those in need as Christ taught us

Ministering to our Members – providing support and fellowship

Ministering to our Souls -- offering Christ-centered Worship and Education