

THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE JOYFULLY PRESENTS

Reverend
Clinton (Clint) G. Roberts

as candidate for
Pastor, Head of Staff of
The First Presbyterian Church
of Lake Forest



*See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.*

- Isaiah 43:19

Letter from the Pastor Nominating Committee

To Our Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

The Pastor Nominating Committee is very pleased to announce our unanimous selection for Pastor, Head of Staff for First Presbyterian Church. Session has called a Congregational Meeting for July 7, 2019, following the 10 a.m. service to vote on our candidate.

We present our nominee, the Reverend Clinton (Clint) G. Roberts, with great joy and enthusiasm. He is currently Head Pastor at Knox Presbyterian Church in Naperville. Clint is a devoted servant of God who the PNC has come to know and to love. In our first interview with Clint, he spoke of his passion for revitalizing congregations. His strengths include compassionate pastoral care, love of teaching, inspirational preaching, collaborating and strategic thinking. His spiritual depth and maturity are evident and inspiring.

Clint is an enthusiastic sailor and cyclist, and he loves classical music and cooking. He is an avid student of history. For his own spiritual nourishment, he takes a solitary retreat to the desert wilderness every year.

Clint and his wife Deb are parents of a married son and daughter and grandparents to Grayce Mae and Pierce. He and Deb are looking forward to living in our beautiful manse.

Your PNC has prayed throughout our time together for clarity and discernment of God's leading to the right shepherd. As we read nearly 90 Personal Information Forms, listened to countless sermons online and conducted personal interviews, we steadily and deliberately narrowed the field. Throughout, we felt the warmth, peace and presence of the Holy Spirit in every interaction with Clint. He always stressed, "You will know." And we do. We believe that he is just what God has been preparing for our congregation.

We hope you will be in church July 7 to hear Clint preach, attend the congregational meeting and to share our joy and enthusiasm as we boldly begin a new season with Clint as our Head Pastor.

In Christ's Service,

The Pastor Nominating Committee

Donna Coffin, Thomas Elliott, Bill Ensing, John Gescheidle, Cindy Johnson, Diane Quinn, Barbara Schulz, David Strong and Martha Zeeman

Message from Rev. Clint Roberts

"For everything there is a season," says the Teacher in Ecclesiastes, and for you, this is a season of new beginnings. Doing the hard work of transitional ministry has brought you new insights, fresh perspectives, a deepened appreciation for the past and most importantly, a renewed faith in the future. I am grateful to all who, through the power of the Holy Spirit, have labored hard to bring First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest to this new season in your shared life together.

Another season lasting nearly twenty years is coming to a close for my wife Deb and me. Like you, our time at Knox Presbyterian Church has been a time to seek and to lose, to break down and to build up, to hold fast and now, to let go. At the invitation of your wonderful PNC, I am coming before you ready to share this new season of life with you; a time I believe will be filled with new vision, renewed strength and your shining witness to God's love for all people in Jesus Christ, who was and is and always will be our one true Shepherd and Guide.

As for me, I am thrilled to be asked to candidate as your pastor. If you choose to make it so, I will come to serve Jesus Christ among you with deep humility, high hope, and (as the Presbyterian Book of Order says) with *"energy, intelligence, imagination and love."* We will do this together because our trust is in God and, as the Psalmist says, *"...my times are in Your hands"* (Ps. 31:15).

With joy,

Rev. Clinton Roberts



Clint and Deb

What Drew the PNC to Clint

From the moment I first met Clint, I felt like he was already my pastor. When you are with Clint you feel that he is 100% present. His empathy and compassion is palpable. I feel as if I have known Clint for a long time. His sermons resonate with me and when I attended a worship service at Knox, I could feel the love Clint has for that congregation, as well as the love that they have for him. I am excitedly awaiting the arrival of Clint and Deb. I believe they are just what God had in mind for us. –*Martha Zeeman*

Clint is fully engaged in the conversations around churches going through a time of transition. I believe he is the right person to walk with us as we decide what to keep, what to change, and what no longer serves us going forward. –*T.S. Elliott*

Clint connects with people. He makes you feel you are the most important person in the room, no matter how many people are present. This is one of many gifts he will offer our congregation. –*John Gescheidle*

In our first interview with Clint, he spoke of his love of revitalizing congregations. He said “transformational ministry is inner work” and “renewal is the work of the Holy Spirit.” It resonated with me that change isn’t about hurrying to add new programming; it starts with inner renewal. In one of Clint’s sermons titled, “Be Doers of the Word,” he talked about each of the elements of inner work: worship, study, service and prayer. I am excited about our future together. –*Diane Quinn*

With each conversation and encounter, Clint connects in a personal way. He is gifted in his ability to listen and understand; and for me, his faith-based wisdom inspires confidence and trust. –*Cindy Johnson*

Clint engages everyone in worship. From an impromptu singing of ‘Happy Birthday’ to a special worshipper to having middle schoolers read scripture, everyone is involved. Clint’s preaching is dynamic. He uses a range of references, including the expected authors and theologians, but also historical references, popular music, and modern culture. He strives to make his sermons relatable and practical. He wants listeners to be able to put the message into practice to grow in their faith. –*David Strong*

Clint’s father and grandfather were Presbyterian Ministers. Perhaps that is why being a pastor is not just what he does, it is who he is. Clint pastored to us throughout the entire interview process, assuring us back in December that we were doing important work and that we would know who God has prepared for us. He was right! –*Donna Coffin*

Comments from Colleagues

"I became a pastor because of Clint"

"Clint has the heart of a pastor"

"If Clinton prays for you, you leave knowing he knows you"

"He has a willingness to be present in difficulty"



"His passion is renewal and revitalization"

"The staff loves him and trusts him. He is comfortable leading change"

"He's steady at the helm"

"This brother can preach!"

Clint's Statement of Faith

I trust in God. This world is God's gift to the living: its life proclaims God's glory, goodness and truth. Communion with God is the beginning and end of Creation, where Old Testament visions of shalom and New Testament visions of the kingdom are fulfilled. With unspeakable love, God gives life freely. But in this freedom, we reject the love of God for the worship of ourselves, which brings forth sin, brokenness and death. Realizing I cannot save myself by myself from myself--I confess my utter reliance on God's gift of grace in Jesus Christ.

I trust in Jesus. In Christ, God stoops to my deepest need and raises me up through Jesus' promise of abundant life. The birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus reconciles me—and the world—to God. This is the foundation of our faith and hope. We are called to proclaim this good news by becoming ambassadors of reconciliation ourselves. Seeing in Jesus the fulfillment of God's Covenant brings me great humility in light of the enormous disparity between my sinful pride and the love of God crucified. Yet through Jesus' resurrection, I can trust this love to be stronger than all deathly powers at work in me and in the world. I know now that Christ abides with me and will never forsake me. He fills my cup with grace. He makes "my woeful heart to sing."

I trust in the Holy Spirit. God in Christ has given us the Spirit of truth to be our strength, comfort and wisdom in life and in death. The Spirit inspires and renews the Church as the merciful people of God, members of Christ's Body, called through our baptism to lay down our lives in the service of the Gospel.

Captained in Christ, the Church finds its moral compass and missional chart through the witness and authority of Scripture. Commissioned and provisioned by Word and Sacrament, the Church will not founder on this sacred journey until Christ has become all in all.

Formal Education:

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, B.A. (English)
Tulane University (History)
McCormick Theological Seminary, M.div.

Continuing Education:

PCUSA Stewardship Seminars
PCUSA Large Church Pastor Seminars
Willow Creek Global Summits
Church Growth Services
Alban Institute for Church Growth
National Evangelism Workshop
Fuller Evangelistic Institute
Ghost Ranch Conference Center
Lilly Clergy Renewal Program

Pastor Experience:

Co-Pastor, Marion Presbyterian Church, Marion, KS, 1985-1990
Pastor, Head of Staff, First Presbyterian Church of Crown Point,
Crown Point, IN, 500 members, 1990-1999
Co-Pastor, Head of Staff, Knox Presbyterian Church, Naperville, IL,
1400 members, 1999-present

Other:

Co-Moderator, Presbytery of Chicago VERGE Task Force
Member, Presbytery Coordinating Commission (PCC), Chicago
Moderator of three special teams on behalf of PCC
Member, Presbytery of Chicago Staff Personnel Work Group
Moderator, Presbytery of Chicago Investigative Committee

The PNC wishes to thank the congregation for your faithful prayers and support throughout the search process. The PNC also gratefully acknowledges the work of the PNC Study Group, whose work and insight informed and inspired the PNC's discernment process.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Donna Coffin	Diane Quinn
Thomas Elliott	Barbara Schulz
Bill Ensing	David Strong
John Gescheidle	Martha Zeeman
Cindy Johnson	

PNC Study Group

Donna Coffin	Gretchen Seymour
Thomas Elliott	David Strong
Jerry Ligon	Anne Warnke
Diane Quinn	



First Presbyterian Church

OF LAKE FOREST

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