



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NEWHALL

At First Presbyterian Church we invite people to follow Jesus Christ in a community where we
EXALT God in Worship, **EMBRACE** one another in love, **ENCOURAGE** spiritual growth,
and **EQUIP** every person for ministry in the church and world.

To our Church Family,

The interim pastor search committee (John Favalessa, Jana Thatch, Rick Brammer and Don Trammell) has recommended, and Session has approved the selection of an Interim Pastor for our congregation. Two things were of foremost importance in this selection process. First, to find an individual who would lead us through the search process and prepare us for our next Pastor. Second, to continue the high level of congregational care that CLP Phil Aijian has provided.

After finding out that several promising candidates were not available, we discovered another option that we were unaware of when we started this process. Phil was trained as an interim pastor and might be able to serve as our interim pastor.

We did not feel that Phil would be able to do justice to the interim pastor role and continue the high level of congregational care that he has provided if he was also expected to prepare and preach each week. So, an innovative solution was proposed. Phil would become the Interim Pastor but would only preach one Sunday a month so he could retain an emphasis on congregational care. We would provide preaching for the other Sundays with pulpit supply. Obviously, we want to retain high quality preaching and consistency in our worship, so to make this work we need to have a pastor who would be willing to fill our pulpit on a regular and recurring basis during this interim period. We found that with Doug Nason (his short bio is attached) who has agreed to prepare worship and preach 3 Sundays a month on a continuing basis. In addition, Len Tiso (bio also attached) has agreed to fill our pulpit on the 5th Sunday of the month when that occurs as well as be available as needed. We will also occasionally have members of our congregation deliver the sermon as has been our practice through the years.

Phil will perform the following duties:

- Provide leadership and oversight for all pastoral care
- Moderate Session
- Support and guide staff members
- Support and guide committee chairs in their ongoing work
- Prepare and lead worship and preach once each month
- Manage weekly preaching and worship leadership in partnership with pulpit supply
- Guide all affairs of the Church in partnership with Session

Phil will need the support of the congregation, and especially our Deacons and Stephens Ministers, to take on these new duties and continue to provide the high level of congregational care we are used to. The Presbytery of San Fernando and the Committee on Ministry will work closely with Phil to provide guidance throughout the entire transitional process.

Additionally, the Presbytery of San Fernando and Mike Harbert, representing the Committee on Ministry, will continue to guide and support the Church through the interim process. The main steps ahead of us include:

- Developing the Mission Study
- Selecting the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) from our congregation
- Developing the Mission Information Form (which becomes the de facto pastor job description). This includes surveying the entire congregation for input to the MIF
- The PNC process for searching, recommending a candidate to the congregation, and installing the new Senior Pastor

Phil will begin as the Interim Pastor on May 1, 2022. The schedule for preaching for May and June will be:

- May 1st - Juan Sarmiento (Executive Presbyter, San Fernando Presbytery)
- May 8th - Emily Morrow
- May 15th - Phil Aijian
- May 22nd - Jack Irwin
- May 29th - Len Tiso, Pulpit Supply
- June 5th - Phil Aijian
- June 12th, 19th & 26th - Doug Nason, Pulpit Supply

Phil will normally preach on the first Sunday of the month and Doug will usually preach on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Sundays.