

# April Newsletter

## News About the Pastor Transition

Greenfield is heading into a time of transition – a time of preparing for Peter’s retirement and the time of transition between Peter leaving and a new Pastor selected and welcomed to Greenfield.

As you may know, a Pastoral Transition Team (PTT) has been selected and actively working (at Greenfield and now at home) on planning for the retirement and the transition. We are now 3-4 months along and wanted to give you an update on what our committees have been doing and where we are headed. We also wanted to give you some tips and recommendations to help you understand what to expect during this transition period.

### PTT Updates

The Pastoral Transition Team committee’s activities have included:

1. **Self-Study:** Completed and published Greenfield’s *Self Study Report* that was presented to the congregation in January (some copies are still available). This study has been given to the Presbytery of Detroit and has been included as a part of the packet of information given to potential pastoral candidates.
2. **Policies & Procedures:** Has been compiling all of the different ways Greenfield does things, including any required advanced planning. They are working with Christian Education, the Deacons, Mission, WHIRL and many others. They also are updating Greenfield’s By-Laws.
3. **Staff & Stakeholders Planning:** Updating the 1995 church staff position descriptions. The committee has also interviewed the staff to get their perspective, related to their position, on what they are most proud of and what they would like to change if they could. Moving forward, they will be engaging GPC committees and outside organizations who partner on programs (e.g. Stage, Whirl, special worship services) to ensure their continuation when Peter retires.
4. **Events:** Planning for the social events that surround this transition, including information gatherings (when we can gather again), retirement celebration event for Peter and a welcoming event for the new Pastor.
5. **Congregational Communications and Resources:** Working on ways to inform the congregation on the developments and events during this preparation and transition time. They are planning for informative mailings and notifications on upcoming events – both written and digital via Greenfield’s website and social media. The committee is also in the process of developing a small group Fall bible study, focused on this transition.

### Thriving in a “Transitional” Season

Every now and then we will provide tips and recommendations for understanding and thriving in this “transitional season”.

During transitional seasons, we occupy space on both sides of a boundary or threshold. We have one foot rooted in something that is not yet over, while the other foot is planted in a thing not yet defined, something **not yet ready to begin**.

We, as individuals and as a congregation, are in a transitional season in the life of GPC. During this season there will be many decisions to make. Decisions such as, “do I continue to participate in x?”, “Should I look at other churches?”, “Is this the right candidate to replace Peter?”. These are not small decisions and in a time like this we must **Emphasize Discernment Over Decision Making**.

When **making a decision**, we consider our goals and options; maybe we list the pros and cons of each possible choice; and then we choose the action that meets our goal most effectively.

**Discernment**, on the other hand, has us **seek out the will of God** through the help of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregational or leadership discernment**, is the ability to recognize and respond to the presence and activity of God as a leadership group (or church) relative to the issues and challenges we are facing, and to make decisions in response to that Presence.

As a church we must seek a shared sense of God's desire for us and move forward on that basis.

**Emphasizing discernment (seeking out the will of God) over decision making** will strengthen both our relationship with God and our church during this transitional season.

Please feel free to reach out to anyone on the PTT or send an email to [PTT@greenfieldchurch.com](mailto:PTT@greenfieldchurch.com) with any questions or concerns you may have.