



Why Kathy? Thoughts from the PNC

Pastor Kathy has a quiet, warm personality and speaks with a thoughtful confidence. Her “down to earth” faithful heart is evident and easy to relate to. I am excited for the congregation and for her to get to know each other and for her to share the gifts that she brings to our church and community.

Steve Ahlquist, PNC chair

Pastor Kathy stands out to me because of her impressive experience working with people, but most importantly, because of how she lets her faith guide her. Her spiritual journey has molded her into a person who has abilities and personality to fit in with our congregation and help us grow. Pastor Kathy is thoughtful and insightful in conversation as she effortlessly blends intellect and scripture. I believe these are a few of the reasons why we were guided together and why she will be a great next pastor of FPC Port Huron.

Jennie Carolan, PNC co-chair

Kathy has been called by God to serve in the ministry and to take the helm of our church. As our pastor, I feel reassured by Kathy’s work experience in the industrial and public work sectors. More important is Kathy’s connection with God and His teachings. Her knowledge of the Bible is very evident. During our interviews, she frequently turned to scriptures to reinforce her position, ideals and Christian beliefs. I truly believe that Kathy’s heavenly calling has led her to our church.

Rick Cameron, PNC member

I believe Pastor Kathy has been called to First Presbyterian Church to come alongside us in our faith journey with love and compassion for all people. Her attention to detail and commitment to God’s call were clearly reflected in our discussions throughout the interview process. Her deep understanding of public relations will be an asset in guiding staff and building relationships with our members. She is our Gift, chosen by God.

Jacque Green, PNC member

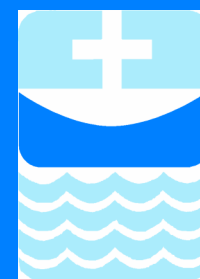
Sometimes things just feel right and that’s how I feel about Kathy. Her energy, enthusiasm and commitment to Christ are evident as soon as you meet her. I look forward to having her as my pastor and friend.

Linda Hall, PNC member

While Kathy’s faith journey has not always followed a “traditional path,” it is one rich with life experience that has brought both successes and disappointments. As she said, “I choose to see life as a series of calls from God and I learn from every experience, whether or not it meets the earthly definition of success.” She is relatable and nurturing with the ability to see the “big picture” without losing sight of what is immediately needed. But most of all, she believes in “equipping the saints” so that we too may grow and succeed as individuals and as a congregation.

Judith McLean, PNC member

The Pastor Nominating Committee is excited to introduce



Pastor Kathy Tessin

as our selection for Pastor,
First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron

Greetings from the Pastor Nominating Committee

Dear Friends,

Throughout its 135-year history, the First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron has strived to build and maintain a vibrant and diverse ministry that reflects its congregation and community. When we began meeting in May 2022, we were tasked to find a pastor who not only would guide and inspire us to continue that ministry but to also pursue new opportunities to which God was calling us. As always, God had prepared a path and was only waiting for us to discern the person he had chosen to be our next pastor.

In our 26-month search, pastors seeking a call were referred to us by the CLC (Church Leadership Connection), a job site maintained by the Presbyterian Church USA. All of these candidates matched several essential leadership and ministerial characteristics deemed by us to be vital to our life and ministry. We each reviewed nearly 200 Personal Discernment Profiles we received from these candidates, watched and listened to scores of sermons, had numerous Zoom meetings with potential candidates, hosted on-site visits and met weekly to share our impressions (and sometimes our frustrations). Throughout all of this, we never lost sight that God was in charge, that he was leading us to the person he had chosen.

Which is why we confidently, enthusiastically and joyfully believe that God has called Pastor Kathy Tessin to be the next minister of First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron. During our discernment, we became increasingly confident that through her love for preaching, teaching and pastoral care, she is the pastor God has called to minister to First Presbyterian.

In this brochure, you will be able to learn more about her qualifications, accomplishments and achievements. And as our next pastor, you will have the privilege of learning about her integrity, honesty and devotion to the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Pastor Nominating Committee, therefore, unanimously and whole-heartedly recommends to this congregation that Pastor Kathy Tessin be confirmed as the next First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron pastor.

In Christ,

Your Pastor Nominating Committee

Education

- Masters of Divinity/Master Arts in Practical Theology
Columbia Theological Seminary
Decatur, Ga., December 2023
- Masters in Human Resources
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mich., 1987
- Bachelor of Arts, Social Sciences Multidisciplinary/Political Science
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Mich., 1984

Pastoral Experience/Service to the Church

- Chaplain Intern, **Presbyterian Village**, Austell, Ga.
- Chapel Intern, **Columbia Theological Seminary**, Decatur, Ga.
- Church Ministry Intern, **Wintergarden Presbyterian Church**, Port Charlotte, Fla.
- Co-chairman, Pastor Nominating Committee, 2018-19
- Ruling Elder, 2016-2019



Other Work Experience

- Chief Human Resources Officer, **Muscogee County School District** Columbus, Ga., 2013-2019
- Worked as a human resources manager or plant training manager at various companies in Georgia, Florida, Arkansas and Indiana, 1991-2003. Served as Director of Human Resources in the Muscogee County School District before being promoted to Chief Human Resources Officer.

Letter to First Presbyterian from Pastor Kathy Tessin

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church of Port Huron,

It is so exciting to be nearing the time in the Presbyterian ministerial call process when I can look forward to meeting all of you!

In discerning a call to minister to this congregation, I have reflected in wonder on the paths God leads us along and the circularity of life. This call truly brings me back around to my beginnings, geographically and spiritually.

A native Michigander, I graduated from Davison High School and Michigan State University. After earning a master's degree in human resources management from MSU, I spent several years working in many organizational settings across five states.

Moving from the corporate world to the public sector, I joined the Muscogee County School District in Columbus, Ga., a district with more than 40,000 students and 5,000 employees. I began there as the Director of Human Resources before being promoted to Chief Human Resources Officer. There, I felt I was finally serving God in my working life, helping others grow and leading the school district to better meet their missions and goals.

BUT, God prepares us for our ultimate purpose in seen and unseen ways, and in the fall of 2017 I began to discern a call to church ministry. By this time, I had experienced many different churches and denominations, and had joined the PC (USA) through a small church in Columbus. In leadership and use of spiritual gifts in serving that congregation as a ruling elder, I realized I had been preparing for the ministry throughout my life.

A new season of life was opening up.

So, I sold my home, left my HR career early, and moved to Atlanta in 2019 to attend Columbia Theological Seminary. I completed my studies at Columbia in December 2023 with Master of Divinity, and Master of Arts in Practical Theology degrees. These last five years were a challenge and a gift. Through all of the study, ministry experiences, examinations and personal spiritual formation, I felt the call strengthen to enter small church ministry.

In my conversations with the members of your Pastor Nominating Committee during the past six months, I began to get glimpses of you: love for this body of Christ, strong faith, and a deep commitment to help others see and feel God's love in this community. As we began discerning the possibility of ministering together in the future, I saw God's guidance of me come full circle – unexpectedly setting me on the path to return to my geographic origins, answering that small voice deep inside while sitting in a confirmation class years ago.

I'm excited to see what our future shared path to serving our risen Lord reveals over the months and years to come!

Kathy Tessin

