

The following is a copy of the letter announcing Arianne Lehn as our nominee for Associate Pastor, recently mailed to the congregation, with two clarifications (*in italics*).

January 25, 2012

Dear Fellow Members of First Presbyterian Church,

With a sense of joy we of your APNC announce that Arianne Braithwaite Lehn is indeed our choice as candidate for the position of Associate Pastor of our church. We have completed the requirements unique to calling Arianne, as requested in October by our Presbytery Committee on Ministry, having interviewed three additional applicants. Though these applicants were certainly qualified and in two cases endowed with years of experience, Arianne stood out as especially gifted and well matched to the Associate Pastor needs of our congregation. Other contributing factors were the powerful sermon she delivered at Grace Presbyterian Church on December 11 and the words of praise for scholarship and other attributes given by her references, mostly McCormick Seminary professors. As many of you have gotten to know Arianne in the past seven weeks, you are already familiar with her warmth, strength, intelligence, and Christian presence. These gifts would serve her well in fulfilling Associate Pastor duties in Congregational Care and Children and Youth Nurture and Education.

Arianne will deliver her candidating sermon at the 10:00 AM service on Sunday, February 5. At the congregational meeting to follow, we of your APNC respectfully and enthusiastically recommend that you elect Arianne Braithwaite Lehn as our new Associate Pastor. If so elected, *Arianne will then proceed to be examined on the floor of the Presbytery of Whitewater Valley for ordination. Pending her successful completion of that examination, Arianne would be ordained and installed* at 3:00pm on Saturday, March 10, everyone invited, and with a reception to follow.

With Rev. Ann Pitman having received such a timely call to her new interim position in Collinsville, IL, our church has been presented with a significant stretch of time without an Associate Pastor. Rev. Pitman's last Sunday with us was January 22 while the earliest Arianne could begin her duties is after her ordination and installation on March 10. This is a long time to go without guidance in the areas designated to an Associate Pastor!

In discussing this problem with Alan Thames, our Executive Presbyter, *and with the concurrence of the Committee on Ministry*, we have found that Arianne could actually start work on Tuesday, February 7. This, of course, would be subject to your vote of approval on Sunday, February 5, and the Session meeting on Monday, February 6. She would be able to engage in all forms of ministry within the congregation except officiating at the observances of Holy Baptism or the Lord's Supper. She would be eligible to fulfill these additional duties following her ordination and installation.

We can already feel the beginning of a new day at First Presbyterian!

Yours in Christ,

Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee –
Mike McDuffie, Jennifer Shaw, Kip Omerod, Grace Ramage, Sondra Mergenthal, Jeff Slater, Byoung Joon kim, Elizabeth Larrabee, and Sarah Savage

