



First (Scots) Presbyterian Church PC(USA)

53 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina, USA 29401-2536

(843)722-8882 fax (843)805-6621 www.first-scots.org

Dear First (Scots) Church Family:

On behalf of the Session, it is our honor to report good news from the Interim Pastor Search Committee. The Session voted unanimously to approve the committee's recommendation to call Joseph S. Harvard to serve as our Interim Pastor beginning on August 15. We know Dr. Harvard by his distinguished reputation in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). We are looking forward to serving with him and await his arrival with hopeful anticipation.

Please join us in thanking the Interim Pastor Search Committee: Jules Anderson, Bob Baldwin, Joel Bateman, Martha Jane Hudnall, and Mary Nance Huff and in prayer for our Interim Pastor, Joe Harvard. Here is what the Interim Pastor Search Committee says about Dr. Harvard:

"From time to time you meet people that you instantly connect with and feel like you have known all of your life. I feel that the Harvards are those people. The committee found them to be very engaging and interested in all who they meet. Their love for the Church and their family are very evident!"

As we talked about the interim position, Dr. Harvard quickly said he thought the position should be called a 'Transition Minister.' He feels that the congregation needs a period of transition from a much loved minister to prepare for the ministry of a new pastor. He believes that he has a calling to be that person and would like to be a part of our journey at First Scots."

~Jules Anderson, Chair of the Interim Pastor Search Committee

"It has been my experience that meeting and breaking bread with people is the best way to get to know them. Thus I was very pleased to have the opportunity to lunch with Joe and Carlisle along with other members of the Interim Search Committee. My first impression of Joe and Carlisle is reflected in the word 'love.' I cannot think of a better word to describe both of them. Clearly they love Christ, they love people and they love the ministry. As our committee worked our due diligence, I learned that the word love describes them best in their ministry to others. That diligence included calls to references, listening to sermons and even video and audio. At the end of our work my opinion remained: Joe and Carlisle are called to First (Scots) to minister to us with love while we search for a new Senior Pastor."

~Bob Baldwin

"I am very pleased that the Interim Search Committee was able to find Joe Harvard and recommend him as our Interim Minister. A review of Dr. Harvard's history shows his significant educational credentials and his long ministry to a number of churches. He has an excellent record of thirty-three years as Senior Minister/Head of Staff at First Presbyterian Church, Durham, NC. His references from this long ministry gave him high praise for his service in all aspects of his ministry. We might have been happy with this impressive background but on meeting and lunching with Joe and his wife Carlisle, I came away with the feeling that here was a man, and his wife, who God was calling to our midst. I was extremely impressed with his demeanor and clear concern for others. It was apparent that Joe is a 'people person,' and I believe that he will be an outstanding Interim Minister for First (Scots). I also believe that Carlisle will make a contribution to our church as she works with Joe in his ministry at First (Scots)."

~Joel Bateman

The Reverend James T. Rogers
Associate Pastor

The Reverend Margaret Frampton Beamguard
Associate Pastor

“My first impression of Joe Harvard was that he was so very eager to get to know us and so completely affable and engaging. He is easy to talk to and obviously has the ability to form relationships quickly. As we talked further with him, he continued to impress me as a ‘shepherd’ – one who would be a gentle but directive leader. In his thirty-three years of experience at First Church Durham, I expect he’s seen everything there is to see in a congregation – the highs and the lows – and my bet is that he has the capacity to celebrate as well as to weep with his flock. His wife Carlisle is a very special lady, a bright and independent soul who brings intelligence, humor, and eminent Christian values to the Harvard team. I think God’s leading is evident in this fine choice for First (Scots).”

~Martha Jane Hudnall

“Our Presbyterian told the Session at the outset of the search that God had chosen someone to serve as the interim minister at First (Scots). It was the search committee's job to find that person. The committee prayed for guidance, collected names, read resumes, listened (often repeatedly) to audio recordings of sermons preached by promising candidates, and finally invited four of those to Charleston for interviews. Three of the four interviews we conducted as we shared a meal with the candidate and his spouse. It became increasingly apparent that Dr. Joseph Sherwood Harvard III might be the person God had chosen for First (Scots). I talked at length to people (two individuals, three couples) who have belonged to congregations Dr. Harvard has served. Everyone with whom I talked described him as a man with a zeal for ministry, a great preacher and pastor, a reconciler, and a bridge builder in the community. In addition, they described his spouse Carlisle as one who is fully engaged in his ministry and is a great asset to Joe. One couple whom I interviewed has known Dr. Harvard since he first finished seminary and has observed the maturity in his ability to write and deliver sermons. They have belonged to churches he has served in Tallahassee and Durham. When the gentleman taught at the Charleston School of Law in 2012-13, they regularly attended First (Scots), and they believe Dr. Harvard will be a ‘great fit’ for our church. I have become convinced that Dr. Harvard is the minister God has chosen for our church.”

~Mary Nance Huff

“The Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100:5

Joyfully,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature, on the left, is 'James Rogers' and the second, on the right, is 'Maggie F. Beamguard'. Both are written in dark ink.

The Rev. James Rogers

The Rev. Margaret F. Beamguard