

REJOICE!

Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee

Eleven years ago, Jeff Conway was invited by a pastor nominating committee to visit a church in Amarillo, Texas. As he looked from the window of a turbo-prop plane onto a Texas landscape that was flat, brown and treeless, he turned to his wife, Patti, and said, "Don't worry, we're never coming here."

But God had His Own plan, and Jeff was faithful to God's calling. In 2000, he became pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Amarillo. It has turned out to be one of the richest experiences of his life. Under his leadership, Westminster has grown in membership and worship attendance. Jeff and Patti, with their two sons, have experienced God's blessings among an open, caring family of God in Amarillo that sounds a lot like the family here at Paoli Pres.

The PPC pastor nominating committee unanimously believes that God is now calling him to be our senior pastor. We have chosen Jeff from 132 candidates who submitted Personal Information Forms. We conducted two lengthy telephone interviews with Jeff, spent time with him in Amarillo, and heard him preach. He and Patti came to Paoli in July for three days of discussion and fellowship, during which he preached again at a local church. Nine people who know Jeff well from his time in Amarillo and in his previous pastoral callings gave us enthusiastic recommendations on his integrity, talent and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Jeff is a biblical preacher who typically gets down from the pulpit and speaks directly to his congregation. He opens the Scriptures in a way that is both scholarly and accessible.

As a teenager, he came to know Christ through the Presbyterian Church and YoungLife, and he is deeply committed to youth ministry. He is also committed to mission. His church in Amarillo has done mission work on the Mexico border and in Belize. He told us a great story of seeing God at work on a youth trip to Northern Ireland. The youth thought that, as Americans, they would be regarded with suspicion. Instead, they found they could bridge gaps between Protestants and Catholics.

We believe Jeff will be an excellent staff leader. He listens well and has a secure ego. He knows where he wants to go, but is flexible and understands that others have much to contribute.

When we began our search, we listed expertise we were seeking in a new pastor, including worship and preaching, spiritual development, communication, administrative leadership, congregational revitalization, interest in mission, and pastoral care. Jeff delivers on all counts.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own under-



On Sunday, September 12, 2010 the Congregation of Paoli Presbyterian Church gathered for worship and in a Congregational Meeting acted upon the recommendation of the Pastor Nominating Committee to call the Reverend Dr. Jeffrey Conway as Pastor/Head of Staff of Paoli Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Conway will begin his ministry with us on November 1, 2010

Dr. Jeff Conway: *Faith Journey*

As an un-churched youth, my journey towards receiving God's gift of faith began with an invitation from a friend while in the ninth grade to attend a ski retreat... A simple gift with powerful consequences. I was discipled over the next four years through the ministry of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Salem, Oregon and YoungLife. In the last days of my senior year in high school I came to realize that I was loved by God and a new season in my adventure of life began. In college I was active in a number of Christian fellowships. My most significant leadership role was leading a Bible study in my fraternity. It was at that time that I began to understand the relationship between faith and works. Living in a house with sixty other people put my words to the test each day.

During my last year in college I began to examine my desire to work with young people in some form of professional ministry. Two years out of college I began my seminary training at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Though the school was 3000 miles from my home, I felt confident I was following God's will as I piled everything I owned into my Ford Fiesta and headed off to Boston. The seminary's youth emphasis program required a three year, year-round commitment to one church, working at least fifteen hours each week in ministry while attending school. I have always been an experiential learner and enjoyed the combination of theological education with continued practical experience. Fort Square Presbyterian Church in Quincy, Massachusetts, was in an urban residential area and afforded me the opportunity to work with the local youth and lead worship each week.

As I completed my seminary education I accepted a call to the Wallingford Presbyterian Church, serving initially as the Director of Youth Ministry and was later installed as the Associate Pastor. After eight tremendous years, I accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church in North Palm Beach. (Yes. Someone had to go help those people at that church on the white sand shores of the tropical water.) My responsibilities at the 1500 member church included evangelism, mission and fellowship. After three and a half years I realized I was ready to use my gifts of leadership and vision to serve as head of staff at a church. Westminster Presbyterian Church in Amarillo, Texas has been that place for the past eleven years. It has been an incredible season of ministry, developing leadership and ministries that have moved an aging congregation into an active, multi-generational church with vital ministries within the congregation, community and wider world.

I am most especially excited about this new season, returning to the East Coast to serve with Paoli Presbyterian Church, a church that has a passion for ministry and mission, and one where I can share my passion for worship leadership and staff development.

And it all began with a simple invitation; a simple gift with powerful consequences. The powerful consequences that come from knowing and experiencing God's mercy through his Son, Jesus Christ that have led to ministries of reconciliation, hope and joy.

Meet the Conway Family

Jeff was born in California and raised in Oregon. He attended the University of Oregon in the late seventies before the “fighting” Ducks learned how to play football. In one of the football team’s first successful seasons in the mid-90s, the Ducks ended the year with an unfortunate date with Penn State at the Rose Bowl.

Jeff began his college career in the architecture department and concluded with a degree in sociology. After some travel and saving for graduate school, he moved to the north shore of Boston to attend Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary where he met Patti. Jeff is an avid reader and is always keen to hear about a good book. He also enjoys downhill skiing, running, racquet ball, and cycling. He has traveled extensively in the countries of Israel, Afghanistan, Scotland, Ireland, and Egypt. A devoted family guy, he revels in the antics of his two sons, Barrett and Addison.



Patti grew up south of Boston. Youngest of four in a family that showered her with the truth of God’s love, she grew up participating in church ministries. She played high school hockey and is a vocal Boston sports supporter. Patti is a registered nurse, receiving her degree from the New England School of Nursing, then her B.S. from Widener University. While living in Wallingford, she worked for Main Line Health at Lankenau and Paoli Hospitals in Labor and Delivery. Patti has served as a Deacon, Sunday School teacher, and Parish Nurse as well as being an active participant in church choirs and mission trips.

Barrett, 18, graduated in the spring from Tascosa High School in Amarillo, earning the Tascosa top ten award. He has been active in club soccer since fifth grade which led to his career as a place kicker for the Tascosa football team. Barrett experienced every kicker’s dream his senior year, beating the rival high school for the first time in five years, in front of 15,000 fans by one field goal. Barrett has been active with youth fellowships, Bible studies, and mission trips. He begins his freshman year in August 2010 at Texas A & M University as a biology major.



Addison, 15, will be entering his sophomore year of a high school in the fall. He returned this summer from a ten day mission trip to the Valley of Peace in Belize with great enthusiasm to continue to serve. He started going to Juarez, Mexico to build houses for Casas por Cristo when he was 9 years old. He has been involved with youth fellowships, Bible studies, and volunteered during worship as a sound tech. Addison plays viola in the high school orchestra, more from his parents’ encouragement because he is good, than from a personal passion. He, too, played club soccer and played on the JV team his freshman year. Addison is enthusiastically looking forward to his 16th birthday on September 14th when he will receive his drivers license.

Statement of Faith- Jeff Conway

I give praise to God, the one true God, triune in nature, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, who is sovereign, just and loving. I give thanks to God who chose to create all things, seen and unseen, according to God's perfect will. God called humanity and creation into existence and continues to be in relationship with each. God is present, purposeful, and personal.

I give thanks for Jesus, God's only son, who was revealed to us both fully human and fully divine. Jesus' ministry of love and service was the display of God's perfect and pure concern for all creation. Jesus' love was displayed to us through his outreach to all peoples. Jesus' service was displayed to us by his work in breaking down the barriers between God and humanity. At creation humanity was given fellowship with God. When humanity sinned, that pure fellowship ended. Yet God continued to reach out to humanity through covenants of love. God's greatest gift of love came through Jesus. Serving as a passage for all humanity to come back to fellowship with God, Jesus bore the sins of the entire world. Jesus, who was sinless, died on the cross for all. On the third day Christ rose bodily from the dead, displaying God's defeat of sin and creating a way for all to have a new and everlasting life. Forgiveness is offered to everyone and received by those who confess that Jesus is their Savior; thus, forgiveness brings back believers to a relationship of peace with God.

I give adoration to God for the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is the giver of life and leads humanity to a living faith in Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God illumines humanity towards ways of daily living and service. God has reached out to humanity by sharing the story of creation and redemption with us through the inspired and authoritative liturgy of the church, the Bible. God's Word was given to humanity through organic inspiration which enabled the writers to retain the full essence of their personalities while the Holy Spirit illumined their minds. This Word has been given to us through historical narratives, dialogue, allegories, analogies, parables, life-application challenges and commands.

I thank God for the headship of Christ over the church. The church is the community of believers who express faith in our Savior, Jesus. Worship is our response to God's revelation of truth and love. In gathered worship we celebrate baptism as the outward symbol of God's inward call upon our lives and we celebrate communion with God as we receive from the Lord's Table, an act of remembrance and thanksgiving. Following God in our individual lives is an extension of our worship. The church is called to strive toward unity in its purpose and service. The church is called to share the gospel throughout the world and to minister to the needs of all, seeking peace and justice in all situations.

A Note of Thanks From the PNC

We are extremely happy to announce that on Sunday, November 14th, 2010, the Reverend Dr. Jeff Conway will begin his Ministry with us. He was called to Paoli Presbyterian Church at the congregational meeting immediately following the service on September 12th, 2010.

Throughout our PNC journey there were many in Church family who supported our efforts through prayer, messages of encouragement, and hugs. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all, especially our family members for their patience and understanding.

Others who helped us along the way include our references: Rev. Jim Moyer; Rev. Bill Hess; and the Rev. Ann Dickey, who also served as our liaison from the Donegal Presbytery Committee on Ministry. Their guidance and encouragement are greatly appreciated. A powerful thank you goes to our interim pastor, Rev. Ray Larson, for the steady and insightful wisdom he brings to PPC, and for advice on the logistics of the PNC process.

Pastor Nominating Committee

Terry Ambrose	Lynn LaRocca	Kayo Nolan	Mike Brittingham
Tom Infield	Al Plambeck	Renee D'Antonio	Lauren Slimon
Kate Stine	Sam Virgilio		