



December 1, 2023

Dear Selwyn Friends,

After years of stable leadership, Selwyn's pastoral staff changed significantly in 2020. During these transitions, the personnel committee researched and adopted a faithful, affordable staffing model to meet SAPC's current pastoral needs while aligning with SAPC's mission and vision.

In step with SAPC's long-range strategic plan in 2022, the Session voted to call an Associate Pastor for Mission and Congregational Life to deepen member engagement and propel SAPC's on-going mission to address issues of homelessness, hunger, and children. However, the efforts to stabilize our staff were paused as SAPC re-oriented itself financially through the pandemic.

Instead, Selwyn has benefited from the temporary leadership of several gifted, part-time, pastors and interns. Most recently, Rev. Hillary Cheek (15 hr/wk. mission and membership) and Rev. Bryan Hovey (20hr/wk. visitation and pastoral care). Moreover, Rev. Margo Fraga begins her fifth year of full-time service at SAPC, as our pastor for Christian Education and Formation and Youth ministries.

After 18 months of faithful care, Bryan retired from SAPC earlier this month to stay closer to his home in Concord. Furthermore, earlier this fall Hillary's role at Selwyn expanded to include an unexpected but life-giving partnership with Quail Hollow Presbyterian Church. In response to the sudden departure of their pastor, SAPC's staff felt compelled to offer QHPC pastoral coverage for six months.



Rev. Hillary Cheek

Hillary continues to serve SAPC in mission and visitation, while also leading worship at QHPC twice a month and providing them pastoral care. In return, QHPC reimburses Selwyn for Hillary's additional hours of pastoral coverage. While Selwyn's current partnership with Quail Hollow is loose, our togetherness has led to

meaningful relationships and a shared sense of hope. Like Selwyn, QHPC's congregation is kind-hearted, committed, hospitable, and their care for one another is authentic. However, due to several circumstances QHPC's Session is discerning God's will for their future, and we remain steadfast in our prayers for them and with them. On December 17th, the choirs of Quail Hollow and Selwyn Avenue will present Vivaldi's *Gloria* in a combined worship service being held at SAPC.

Selwyn is thriving! This year we have welcomed 33 new adult members and 14 confirmands. Our mission partnerships are deepening, and Selwyn's financial footing is on solid ground. SAPC will be completely debt free in early 2024. Major capital projects are either completed or planned for, and (so far) the 2024 stewardship season reflects enthusiasm, commitment, and gratitude.

Last spring the congregation elected an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee to discern God's call toward a full-time pastoral leader in lieu of various part-time transitional leaders. This decision has less to do with

manpower or even talent. Selwyn has been blessed by an array of gifted part-time pastors over the years and another full-time associate pastor will only increase SAPC's pastoral coverage by five hours weekly. This is an intentional choice to stabilize Selwyn's pastoral leadership team for sustained ministry and growth within and beyond our walls.



Rev. Margo Fraga

As Rev. Margo Fraga approaches her fifth year of ministry among us, her sense of call to SAPC is deepening and expanding. With prayer and careful consideration, the personnel group, Session, Margo, and I have mutually agreed the focus of her call should shift from youth ministry toward the ministries within congregational life (fellowship, membership, and care). To read more about Margo's sense of call to this new role [click here](#). This *call to faithfulness* should be celebrated, as we give thanks for the depths of Margo's intelligent, sensitive work among us. With Margo's new role, a unique opportunity for SAPC to call a dynamic pastor for youth and mission presents itself.



With a commitment to sustainability and engagement, Selwyn's is responding to God's call as we seek to embody the sacrament of baptism as we care for children and youth, expand our involvement with key mission partners, and deepen our authentic, intergenerational relationships within our congregation. Ideally, Selwyn's pastoral staff would reflect the three legs of a stool.

- Pastor and Head of Staff
 - Worship, Preaching, Pastoral Care
 - Administration, Head of Staff, Strategic Planning and Visioning
 - Moderator of the Session
- Associate Pastor for Congregational Life and Christian Education and Formation
 - Internal Community Organizing, Fellowship, Hospitality Ministries, Membership Engagement, Care Ministries
 - Formation and Christian Education for Adults, Connectionalism within the Church
- Associate Pastor for Mission, Youth and their Families
 - External Community Organizing, Mission Partnerships and Impact
 - Formation, Care and Christian Education for Youth and their Families.

The APNC is enthusiastic about their discernment and work thus far. Please [visit this link](#) on SAPC's website for updates and news regarding Selwyn's search. In the meantime, your prayers are coveted, your trust is valued, and your presence among us in worship and service to the community around us is treasured.

With Advent Hope,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Lori Archer Raible".

Rev. Lori Archer Raible