

July 28, 2026

Canton Friends and Family,

As we shared in previous congregation meetings and email communications (posted on the church's website under [About > Lead Pastor News](#)), the Succession Task Force Team is taking an active role in the pastoral succession process, working closely with the North Georgia Conference to receive and vet applications, check references, listen to sermons, make visits, and conduct interviews. The Team has taken the last several months to review the applications received to date, and we met this past week to decide together on scheduling interviews. These initial interviews will take place in mid-September, after the completion of General Conference for the Global Methodist Church, which is taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa, in late August/early September. The window for applying for the position closes on October 1.

We want to thank those of you who have reached out to us with comments and questions about the process. Your input is invaluable! Our Team members have developed a list of questions to ask candidates during the interview process, and we wanted to give you an opportunity to also submit questions. If there is a question that you would like for us to ask, please submit this via email to rsdreschel@gmail.com, or drop it off at the church office in an envelope with "Succession Task Force Questions" marked on the front. We value your ideas and look forward to including questions from our congregants in the process!

In the meantime, if you have questions about the process, please feel free to reach out to one of the Task Force Team members: Jeremy Bowden, Susan Brown, Susan Dreschel (Chair), Gil Edwards, Mike Haire, Dana Hall, Rod Metcalf, Gini Mizelle, Kenny Ott, Nan Peters, Corey Shores, and Dave Sullivan (Vice Chair). This group represents the **2025 and 2026 Staff Parish Relations** (Personnel) Committees for Canton First.

More than anything, we ask that you continue to be in prayer during this season as we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance for our Church. Pray for the applicants and their families, and please also pray for the Team members.

With Hope and Trust in Christ,

Gini Mizelle
Governing Board Chair

Susan Dreschel, Lay Leader &
Chair of Succession Task Force Team

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6