

December 3, 2024

TO: Members and Friends
FROM: The Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) of Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church (LAPC) shares with elation the good news that our candidate, **Reverend Emily Brewer, has received the vote from the Presbytery of New York City of “YES!”** We are overjoyed by this outcome and immensely grateful to have completed this journey with such care and prayer from our community! As we close out our work we want to share our gratitude in highlighting the support and guidance we received throughout this journey.

We lift up incredible thanksgivings to our beloved God in providing us with favor, strength and privilege in serving LAPC. We rejoice and say Hallelujah for the gift we have been given of our sacred church home and now, our new Installed Pastor, Reverend Emily Brewer, as our faithful leader!

We would not have been able to do any of this work without the trust and confidence from our **LAPC Congregation** and **Community**. We have been so humbled and blessed by your support. We thank you for your patience and prayers in the journey we traveled, especially as our work required considerable confidentiality. We felt your grace and faith as we took the time needed for thorough and careful discernment to arrive at the candidate truly called for LAPC.

We give thanks to the **Mission Study Review Team** who created such a comprehensive document that not only spoke to the rich history of our church, but the needs of our growing congregation in helping us to know what our church most valued in a new Pastor. This provided us with valuable feedback, especially

regarding the strengths of our vibrant congregation and the areas of growth important to meet our diverse and evolving needs. We give thanks to the **Church Nominating Committee** in your selection of each one of us to join the Pastor Nominating Committee, in providing us with the opportunity to work in collaboration on behalf of our special congregation.

We thank the previous **LAPC Pastor Nominating Committee** for sharing insight from their experience and helpful suggestions to aid in our work.

We give thanksgivings abundant to **Rev. Anne Conroy**, our Commission on Ministry Liaison to the Pastor Nominating Committee, for your constant guidance, encouragement and wisdom to inform our work, each step of the way. In addition, we also thank Rev. Anne Conroy along with **Rev. Eric Thomas** and Long-Time Church Member, **Gail Blaize**, for being references on our Ministry Discernment Profile, serving as resourceful voices and treasured testimony for LAPC.

We are blessed to have **Elvis Alves** and **Jonathan King** serve the committee with insight and experience to guide our discernment. Our work was strengthened by your valuable contribution.

We have also been blessed to have the faithful support from our **LAPC Prayer Team** in lifting us, and our work up, in prayers without ceasing! We give thanks to our **LAPC Stewardship, Session** and **Deacon Board** for your valuable service to the church, including such important work to support bringing our candidate to this new position.

We are grateful for the work that so often goes on behind the scenes in bringing our various requests to fruition. **Fekade Sergew, Harriet Bodner**, and **LAPC Communications** - we would not have been able to pull off the many logistics and communication needs without your expertise, flexibility and accommodations!

We are so thankful to the **Commission on Ministry** of the **Presbytery of New York City** for your continued trust in our work and for moving our journey forward with your approvals and blessings, each important step of this process.

We have been blessed by our dedicated **LAPC Audio-Visual Team** for making our Congregational meeting accessible for all. We thank **Rev. Stephen Phelps** for moderating, with support from **Evan Koniq**, in making our hybrid meeting come to life. We thank our Clerk of Session, **Sandra Long**, for your constant faith in our work and for leading us into our Congregational Meeting and NYC Presbytery meeting towards this exciting new chapter.

We thank LAPC's own **Selma Jackson**, Moderator of the NYC Presbytery, and the Committee at large for your inspiring dedication to serving our denomination and city. The approval of Reverend Emily Brewer as our next Pastor gives us such joy and affirmation as we prepare for our future, with our new Pastor now divinely positioned to lead us into our new chapter.

Rev. Emily Brewer, we are so incredibly grateful for the opportunity to get to know you and your family even more during this process and for the amazing leadership you have already bestowed upon LAPC as our Interim Pastor. Thank you for believing in our community - from our historic and sacred legacy to the powerful future we are already working to create together. We are confident in your lead as our Installed Pastor and filled with humility and thanksgivings to arrive at this milestone together.

While this letter is just a fraction of our gratitude, we know this could never adequately acknowledge everyone who supported our work and wished us well. Please know your prayers are cherished and we are blessed by your amazing grace.

In love and light,

The Pastor Nominating Committee

Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, NY

Co-Chairs: *Gena McGhee, Craig Bannister*

Members: *Elizabeth Daniel, Clara Freeman, DeLaina Gumbs,
Urey Onuoha, Diana Roggemann*