

October 30, 2024

To the Congregation of LAPC:

The LAPC Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is delighted to recommend Rev. Emily Brewer to serve as the Pastor of Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Below is information on the PNC's process, what convictions we held, and ultimately, why we believe God has called Rev. Emily Brewer to lead our congregation at this time. If you have any questions, we are here! Please contact us at pnc@lapcbrooklyn.org

How We Got Here

Our work as a PNC began two years ago in October 2022 with a deep review and reflection of our congregation's Mission Study, i.e., what we as a congregation believe is our mission to the world and the core competencies to get us there. These included a vision for ministry that seeks to amplify God's love in Brooklyn and beyond through social justice. We held to these competencies through reviews of hundreds of applications, countless views of sermons, and dozens of hours of interviews with incredible candidates. LAPC is a special place, with a diverse group of believers looking to live the gospel, and we know that our leadership has to support and strengthen these qualities.

During this undertaking, we received Rev. Emily Brewer's application and with discernment and unanimous interest we brought her through a multi-pronged interview process. This process included multiple rounds of both virtual and

in-person interviews, thorough reference checks with multiple people in and out of our denomination, sermon reviews of work at LAPC and beyond, and the conclusion of the neutral pulpit process, yielding the excited outcome of selecting Rev. Brewer as the person we feel is called to be the next installed Pastor of Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church.

Why Rev. Emily Brewer

We are moved to recommend Rev. Brewer because in her sermons, statement of faith, and interviews, she has shown us that she is the “dynamic and progressive pastor who steps forward to meet people where they are with an open heart and a deep conviction to preach the gospel of social justice,” as expressed in our 2022 Mission Study.

We came to see that in her years leading the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, Rev. Brewer lived the Gospel’s call and led others to “love your neighbor” in ways that will inspire and motivate our congregation. Her time leading the organization also helped her develop the capacity to strengthen our “human infrastructure,” as described as a need in our Mission Study.

She has also moved us with her deep understanding of who we are as a congregation and with her vision for a ministry that is welcoming, supportive, and joyful for all in our diverse community.

We won’t shy away from describing our recent experience of Rev. Brewer as our interim Pastor. We have had the opportunity to observe and, yes, participate in the deep respect she brings to the community she serves. We have had a direct experience of the compassion she brings as well as her ability to reach across generations; both are palpable in the service and in times of fellowship—such as the Maundy Thursday dinner and Ash Wednesday service and video.

Finally, as she herself described (and references corroborated), she is moved to lead by building up the incipient and existing strengths of the congregation. We believe she will help galvanize us as a church and work collaboratively.

In our prayerful reflection and through our several interviews, we saw that she is ready to serve as LAPC's installed Pastor and that the church and community are blessed by her presence.

Next Steps

The Pastor Nominating Committee has scheduled meet-and-greet receptions with Rev. Brewer, to be held at LAPC:

Thursday, November 7, 6:00-8:00pm

Candidate Dinner

(LAPC Session Members and Deacons only)

Saturday, November 9, 4:00-5:30pm

Meet / Re-Meet the Pastor: A Social Gathering / Open House

We are looking forward to formally presenting Rev. Brewer on **Candidating Sunday, November 10, 2024**. Session has also called a **Congregational Meeting** on November 10 right after service at 12:30pm (ET). The meeting will be hybrid and members will have the choice of attending virtually or in-person. At this meeting, you will have an opportunity to ask questions and reflect on the discernment. Then, all members in attendance will vote on the call of Rev. Emily Brewer as our next Installed Pastor.

In love and light,

Gena McGhee, Craig Bannister

Co-Chairs

The LAPC Pastor Nominating Committee

Elizabeth Daniel, Clara Freeman, DeLaina Gumbs,

Urey Onuoha, Diana Roggemann

Members