



September 20, 2021

Interim P.N.C. Announcement:

Dear Old Stone Family,

On behalf of the Session and the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee, it's my great pleasure to announce the call of the Reverend Jeff Binder to serve as Old Stone's interim pastor.

The Interim PNC began its work on May 3, 2021, and over the course of the next several months reviewed 64 resumes, listened to sermons, reviewed church websites and other information on prospective pastors. As we moved through the process, one candidate remained at the top of our list. Jeff is a young, energetic pastor who has sound experience in the Presbyterian Church USA. He has served as a youth pastor, worked at the Presbytery level and most recently served as head of staff at Valley Community Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon, a congregation of 300+.

The Session met Wednesday evening and was unanimous in its support of the Committee's selection. The following evening, the Committee met with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry. Our selection was ratified, and Jeff was accepted into the Presbytery. He will begin his work with us on October 18, 2021.

Plans are already in the works to introduce Jeff to the Old Stone family and our community and we'll keep you updated as we finalize details. This is truly an exciting time for Old Stone as we transition to the next chapter.

~Doug Bicksler, Interim PNC Chair

Jeff is a native of Parma, Ohio; a large suburb of Cleveland. He attended The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio where he earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religious Studies. Following graduation he served as director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries for The Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville in New Jersey. In 2009 he was awarded a Masters of Divinity degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, in Chicago, IL. Presently, Jeff is a Doctor of Ministry candidate with Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Austin, TX. His first ordained call was as associate pastor for Families and Mission at the First Presbyterian Church of Tequesta, Florida, and subsequently served as associate presbyter for Discipleship & Ministry with the Presbytery of the Peaks in Lynchburg, VA., before being called to Valley Community Presbyterian. Jeff is a faithful fan of all Cleveland sports teams, an avid outdoorsman and runner.



"I am excited to have old friends just a few miles away in Virginia and my family within a half-day's drive in Ohio. I am thrilled to be returning to the mountains and people of Appalachia, which feels like home time and time again. And, I am inspired with the opportunity to serve as your interim pastor where we can journey alongside one another in faith and fellowship," said Rev. Binder.

