



PINES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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March 10, 2022

Dear Pines Family,

I am excited to share with you that we have a new Director of Music Ministry and a new Church Musician/Accompanist! After eighteen meetings, reviewing six candidates, conducting multiple Zoom and in-person interviews and with much prayer, the Director of Music Ministry Search Committee has heard God's call and enthusiastically recommended to the Staff Committee that Laurie Conner be our next Director of Music Ministry, and Shawn Heller to be our new Church Musician/Accompanist. The Staff Committee has acted upon that recommendation and hired Laurie and Shawn to lead our music ministry.

The Search Committee, consisting of Phil Johnson, Shirley Bollich, Karen Davis, Jim Patterson, Dan Schafer and Bethel Strawser was impressed with Laurie and Shawn's experience, energy and enthusiasm for the positions, and our Pines family. Laurie's love of music goes back to when she was a young child and attending church with her family. Laurie has directed choirs in several churches and has taught choirs in the public school system for over twenty years. Shawn has been playing the piano since he was four years old and won multiple competitions before graduating high school. Shawn has shared his gifts around the world with different choirs and ensembles.

Many of you are familiar with Laurie, as she has been our temporary Music Director since November, and Shawn has filled in since late January. Laurie sees music as a bridge to welcome people into the church and into God's welcoming arms. Her vision for the music ministry at Pines is one that will flow beyond the choir loft and into our many ministry areas, as well as our community. Shawn has a similar vision for the music ministry and prays his gifts are seen as an extension of his worship, faith and love for Jesus Christ.

The Search Committee has appreciated your prayers as they listened to the Holy Spirit while they sought our next dynamic duo for our Music Ministry. The Committee is confident Laurie and Shawn will continue Pines' longstanding history of excellence in music ministry. We look forward to officially welcoming Laurie and Shawn as our new Music Ministry team with a celebration in the near future. May we always, praise God from whom all blessings flow!

With great excitement,

Andy Gans

Pastor