

**Purpose for Listening Sessions:** To engage the congregation throughout the interim period in discerning the way forward for First Reformed Church, including how we “stand at the intersection of faith and life in our community.” This first round of sessions will help us to identify strengths and key areas that require further clarity and/or alignment before we move forward in our search for new leadership.

We will continue to build upon what we learn throughout the summer, before officially launching the search for our next pastor. What follows are thought starters to consider before we meet.

**Context:** With the departure of Senior Pastor, Kathleen Edwards-Chase, we seek to discern where the Holy Spirit is calling us forward. Part of this discernment includes re-engaging with our “why” through prayer and our mission, vision, and values.

### **Questions to guide our Listening Sessions, March 2022**

As stated in the announcement, our goal is to use our time across the two topics below. We may not cover every single sub-question, so reading these in advance will help focus our time together on what is most relevant to you.

Opening: What do you love most, and/or are you most excited about, in our ministry at FRC?

Topic 1: Three months into the transition of Pastor Kathleen’s departure, how are things going?

- What is going well? What concerns do you have?
- What requests or suggestions do you have for navigating through this period of time?

Topic 2: Referring to our mission, vision and values (MVV) statements,

- What do we celebrate in becoming a reality?
- As you read aspirational statements, what do you envision becoming a reality?
- Are there any areas in the MVV with which you’re struggling to connect?
- Are there any ministries we are currently engaged in that, in your opinion, don’t have a clear connection to the MVV?
- What aspects of our MVV do we long to put further into practice going forward?
- What dreams do you have for FRC and how might those dreams begin to inform the skills, behaviors, and experiences of leading candidates for this open position? (The answer to this will likely evolve throughout the summer, the longer we live through this interim period.)