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The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

February 10, 2022

Dear Families and Community Members,

It is with great excitement and joy that we announce the appointment of Halima Fuller as the new Director of the First Presbyterian Church Nursery School. We are thrilled to have Halima's rich experience at FPCNS, her creativity, her problem-solving skills, her network of colleagues in early childhood education, her passion, and her vision for the school into the years ahead, leading our community at this momentous time in the life of the school. As you know, in July 2021, Halima stepped into the role of Interim Director, after serving as the Educational Director at the school as well as a teacher, assistant teacher, and summer program coordinator at FPCNS. Halima holds certifications in general, special, and gifted education.

The Director search process began last spring. The Search Committee was composed of a representative group of leaders from the school and church community each with unique gifts to contribute to the search process. The members of the Search Committee worked tirelessly throughout the summer to assess the current needs of the school, taking great care to consider the leadership desired, as identified from parent feedback in the spring and in speaking with educational experts in early childhood education throughout the city. The Committee collected and vetted over seventy-five resumes, mostly from the tri-state area, but also from places far outside the city, including California and Georgia. The Search Committee narrowed the pool of candidates to six, four, and finally, two. The opportunity to interview such a strong group of candidates only clarified the leadership qualities that Halima brings to the school and the church staff. The Nursery School Committee also met the final two candidates, and their input was invaluable in our discernment. We are delighted to thank the rest of the Search Committee - Merretta Schmelzkopf, Tracy O'Sullivan, Miyoung Lee, Nadya Robinson, and Olivia Horton - for their tireless work and commitment to the search and the school.

As we look toward the future of FPCNS, in this seventieth year anniversary, we are enthusiastic about Halima's leadership and ask that you encourage her in dreaming big, even as you share your own hopes for FPCNS as we walk into this bright future together! Early childhood education is a special time in the life of all our children and their families and we are privileged to have Halima's experience and leadership taking our hand and walking us into the experiences ahead.

Blessings,

John McGinn
Chair, Search Committee

Jeff Metzler
Chair, Nursery School Committee

The Rev. Dr. Barbara E. Davis
Executive Minister