



ACC Music Director Search – FAQ (frequently asked questions)

David Rooney has submitted his resignation as our Director of Music and Organist. His last day with us is July 15th. David has served us well for 10 years, and his departure is a significant loss. As we begin a new chapter in the music history of our congregation, we plan to keep the congregation informed as we move forward, inviting input as much as possible.

1. ***When is David's last day?*** David will be with us for worship for the last time on July 15th. That Sunday will be a Hymn Sing as we celebrate the gift of music as an important part of our worship experience.
2. ***What happens next?*** A Music Director Search Team has been formed to help move us forward. It consists of:
 - Pete McVay
 - Dorothy Graaskamp
 - Darlene Graczyk
 - Nancy White
 - Kathy Elliott
 - Linda Churchman (rep. from Trustees)
 - Shirley Reed (rep. from Deacons)
 - Pastor Jim Thomas

They have already begun meeting to plot a course forward.

3. ***What are the first steps?*** First, the team is exploring whether to consider broadening the types of music that are a part of our worship. For example, would we want to include more contemporary music and songs in addition to our familiar hymns? How about more instrumental music, perhaps including Timberlane students or other groups? We are remembering what David said in his resignation letter – that he hopes we “find music that is more invigorating and enlightening.”
4. ***Does the congregation get to share input?*** Of course! Within the next week or so a survey will go out to everyone on our email list asking a series of questions to help us understand your desires for the future music program of the church. We will have paper copies of the



survey for those not on email. We will also have a listening session following worship next Sunday, July 8th at which members will be invited to come and share their thoughts in person. Members will also be invited to an evening meeting of the Team to give input. A fourth option would be to send your input directly to Pastor Jim at jim.thomas@atkinsoncc.org which he will then share with the team.

5. **Then what?** Next is the question of number and types of positions. We need to replace a Bell Choir Director, an Organist, and a Music (Choir) Director. Should that be one position, two, or three? If we expect one person to be able to do all three, will that shrink the pool of available candidates? Might we fill one or more of those positions in house?
6. **Does this tie into our Vitality efforts?** As a matter of fact, yes! We are reminded that our Vitality Team has learned that our worship and missions can't just be about keeping current members happy, but must also be invitational and meaningful for those we seek to have join us.
7. **Once we know what we are seeking, then what?** Coordinating with the Trustees (who have the authority to hire and set compensation) we will develop position descriptions and begin to advertise for a person(s) to fill the positions available.
8. **What about in the meantime?** While working on all the above, the Music Director Search Team is also beginning efforts to ensure musical coverage for worship in the interim time, arranging for coverage until we have our position(s) filled.
9. **What else can we do?** We invite (covet, really) your prayers and well wishes as we do the best we can for our church's future.

Is there a question we didn't answer? Please send it to Pastor Jim and he will get you an answer as soon as he can.

Thanks for taking this journey with us, and thanks for your patience as we try to ensure we follow our hearts and the leading of the Holy Spirit for our congregation's music program.

The Music Director Search Team