

FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Dear First Pres Members and Friends,

When the Pastor Nominating Committee started our search, we set out to be mindful and always centered on the qualities and skills that were important to our congregation in our next Senior Pastor. After careful consideration and an unfailingly consistent, strategic search process, we are thrilled to recommend Rev. Andrew Esqueda unanimously and confidently as our candidate. Just as we have thoughtfully come to this decision, we acknowledge that Andrew has prayerfully entered this exciting chapter alongside us with his wife, Megan, and their three sons. Their genuine enthusiasm in joining our congregation is clear to us, and we are thankful that Andrew has felt a mutual call, prayerfully considered, and led by our connections in faith.

In his current role, Andrew has led ministry initiatives that have served his congregation and the community surrounding it. Along with these ministry initiatives Andrew has developed ministry programming that has reached all ages in his congregation and has led to greater participation and congregational growth. Andrew led the effort to create a Family Ministry at his church with the goal of bringing cohesion to age and stage ministries, supporting the faith of parents, grandparents, and people of all generations, and establishing their preschool and recreation program as ministries of the church. Andrew's ministry initiatives have led to the establishment of various fellowship groups and have emphasized the importance of intergenerational ministry and the integration of the entire congregation. Andrew has led a million-dollar capital project to develop "The Loft", a shared intergenerational and community space used for children and youth programs, worship services, Session meetings and retreats, the preschool, and for community events. He is passionate about his work, remaining faithful to the history of our tradition while being mindful of the challenges of the 21st century church and finding opportunities for the church to thrive in our modern world.

Andrew has incredible interpersonal skills. Through each meeting that we had, every interview and each interaction in between, it was very clear that Andrew leads with a caring, Christian heart. He is successful in intergenerational leadership and relationship building, and he is an active participant in the communities where he serves. He demonstrates the passion that he has for his work and responsibilities as a leader in every interaction he has. We are excited with the prospect of the great things that will come with the energy and love of Christ that Andrew shares. We can't wait for everyone to witness what we have been blessed to see for the past few months of knowing him.



Rev. Andrew Esqueda

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12: 1-2

ABOUT THE PASTOR CANDIDATE



EDUCATION

- B.A. Religion, minor: Biblical Studies from Whitworth University, Spokane, WA (2008)
- M.A. Biblical and Theological Studies from Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA (2014)

RECENT EXPERIENCE

- Associate Pastor for Family Ministries at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA (2018-Present)
- Director of Youth and Family Ministries at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA (2015-2017)
- Director of High School Ministries at Roswell Presbyterian Church, Roswell, GA (2012-2015)

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Assistant Varsity Wrestling Coach at the Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA
- Christian Mission Council of the Board of Trustees, The Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA
- Dismantling Racism Committee, Greater Atlanta Presbytery, Atlanta, GA
- Examinations Committee, Greater Atlanta Presbytery, Atlanta, GA
- Trustee and Chair of Institutional Advancement, Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary, Atlanta, GA
- Board of Trustees, Presbyterian Youth Workers Association

Andrew and his wife Megan have been married for 14 years and are the proud parents of Isaiah (9), Desmond (4), and Maddox (10 weeks). Andrew is originally from San Diego, CA and grew up at First Presbyterian Church of San Diego where he and his family were actively involved in all aspects of church life. Andrew began his professional ministry working at Roswell Presbyterian Church (2400 Members), and currently serves as the Associate Pastor for Family Ministries at Trinity Presbyterian Church (1750 Members). Andrew has been actively involved in numerous denominational and ministry leadership roles such as working with the Presbyterian Mission Agency on developing guidance for intergenerational ministry, serving on the Examinations Committee and Dismantling Racism Committee of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, and participating in Lilly Grant initiatives with the Presbyterian Foundation and Luther Seminary. Andrew cares deeply about being invested in his community and has served as a local community wrestling coach for the last 10 years and more recently on a sub-committee of the Westminster Schools Board of Trustees. Additionally, he sees his role as pastor to not just be for the congregation, but the community in which the congregation resides. Outside of ministry Andrew is passionate about his family (including his English bulldog, Cali), collegiate wrestling, the Atlanta Braves, F1 Racing, really good coffee (he's a self-declared snob), baking homemade bread and Neapolitan pizzas, exploring new restaurants with his wife and friends, working out, and playing the guitar and drums.

Andrew & Maddox



Megan & Andrew



Desmond, Isaiah & Maddox



FROM THE PASTOR CANDIDATE

Dear First Presbyterian Church, West Chester,

I am so thankful to be with you for candidacy Sunday and I am thrilled by the thought of becoming your next Senior Pastor! I want you to know the incredible job your PNC has done representing you, and the exceptional amount of care and kindness they have shown my family. Along with my wife Megan, sons Isaiah, Desmond, and Maddox, we are overwhelmed with gratitude. Your church tagline is “Above All, Love”. As we journeyed with the PNC and began to learn more and more about your history and your life together, it became more and more clear that First Pres. doesn’t simply have a tag line, but an embodied mission in which the love of Christ is truly lived out in a multitude of ways. From welcoming worship, fellowship and hospitality with and toward one another, to Wednesday community lunches at the church, and investing in affordable housing for the sake of your neighbors, the mission to, above all, love, is alive and well at First Pres. As we engaged in discernment with the PNC, I grew in excitement and began to imagine what it might look like for our family to join you in faith and life, however, over time I stopped imagining and started thinking concretely about what my call as a pastor and your call as a congregation might do if joined together. It was at this point that it felt as though there was a unison chorus of mind, body, and the Holy Spirit urging me to say “yes” to this call, and at the same time, humbled by the potential of your “yes”.



I believe that the future of First Pres. is very bright! Through a pastoral transition and a pandemic, and even amidst the times it has felt like God is distant, God has been doing amazing work in your church and also preparing you for incredible ministry opportunities that will transform this church, West Chester, and the world. I am humbled at the prospect of becoming your next Senior Pastor and overwhelmed with excitement at the thought of joining in ministry with and alongside you.

I can’t wait to meet all of you and for you to meet my family: Megan, Isaiah, Desmond, Maddox, and even our sweet English bulldog, Cali. We wait with hope and anticipation for that day.

May the love of Christ and hope in his resurrection continue to uphold you in this exciting next chapter of First Presbyterian’s ministry.

With Gratitude and Hope,

Rev. Andrew Esqueda



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, August 5th 2023

1:00pm - 3:00pm | Fellowship Hall

Open House with the Esqueda family

"Andrew's engaging personality combined with an appreciation for history and a keen sense of how to make Christ real to this generation is the perfect combination for West Chester. Good days are ahead for you all!"

- Bill Wilson; Director,
Center for Healthy Churches

Sunday, August 6th 2023

9:00am - 9:45am | Fellowship Hall

Coffee Hour with Andrew Q&A

"It was my privilege to serve for four years with Andrew Esqueda in ordained ministry at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. He has a large heart, a sharp mind, a deep commitment to the Gospel, and brings impressive energy, enthusiasm, and creativity to the tasks of ministry. He also has a wonderful sense of humor that is perhaps rooted in his conviction that in all things we are saved by the free gift of God's grace in Jesus Christ."

- George Stroup;
J.B. Green Professor Emeritus of Theology
Columbia Theological Seminary

10:00am | Sanctuary

Worship Service with Andrew Preaching

"Andrew has a deep understanding of the changes in American culture that call the church to rethink its approach to ministry. Combined with his years of leadership in a thriving large church, and you have a pastor who is ready to lead your congregation into a vital and faithful future."

- Jim Kitchens, Principal
PneuMatrix

11:00am | Sanctuary

Congregational Meeting will directly follow the service for congregational vote

"I have always loved the way Andrew's brain works. He is a deep thinker, a ponderer, a dreamer, and a visionary. Andrew can imagine and plan for the present, but, even more importantly, the already upon us and the we are not-quite-readiness of post-modern ministry. Andrew knows how to build a team and use each person's individual gifts to ready the church to join God in God's great plans already at work."

- Rev. Dr. Emily Wright – Senior Pastor,
Westlake Hills Presbyterian Church, Austin, TX

