

7 April 2025

To: Bonnie Schuler ccsw@ccsw.org

From: Steve Nelson stephen.nelson@macom.com

Subj: Chris Fluitt FCC-VA Congregational Care Committee

Some brief history - The FCC-Van Alstyne "Chris Fluitt Journey Team" met with Chris Fluitt on the Memorial Day holiday weekend, on Sunday, 28 May 2023, and discussed several topics concerning his ordination journey. The congregational care committee team members include FCC-VA trustees Collin Flynn (Elder) and David Wood (also Board Disbursing Treasurer), and FCC-VA Board members Carol Smith and Steve Nelson (Board Chair and Elder). We have supported Chris and Sarah in this Ordination / Education journey, and are always available to offer help or advice, and prayers. FCC-VA also provided financial support for this journey, per guidelines noted by CCSW.

Two of the committee members noted above have significant hiring and personnel management experience. David Wood is the founding director of Independent Bank (1986 – today). Steve Nelson is a cofounder and CTO of ENGIN-IC, Inc., an electrical engineering firm. Our comments and recommendations concerning Chris Fluitt at that time were partially based on more than 90 years experience in hiring and managing personnel.

Chris and Sarah are responsible for our music ministry at FCC-VA, and both have also provided sermons to our congregation when our senior pastor may be out on a given Sunday. Chris and Sarah serve the Lord and our congregation very well – we are very fortunate and blessed to have them at FCC-VA.

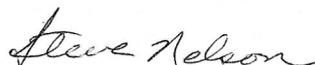
Over the past two years, as Chris has completed his course work and other requirements for ordination, FCC-VA has provided him with additional challenges – well beyond the call of duty, particularly after our senior minister stepped down a few months ago. Chris has provided sermons frequently during this time, and helped guide the church as we search for an interim minister.

Chris offers encouragement and faith and hope -- when others at our church may espouse frustration, to the point of anger, and a lack of patience. Chris is a very good communicator of the Gospel, and treats all FCC members and visitors with kindness and empathy. Patience and kindness are key ingredients of what Paul describes as love (1 Cor. 13:4) – and if this an indicator of what Chris has been taught over the past two years, then the CCSW education program is very successful.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) / CCSW is gaining an excellent future pastor (and music minister) in Chris Fluitt.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with Chris in this endeavor. ***FCC-VA looks forward to sponsoring Chris' ordination service soon.***

May God Continue to Bless Chris and Sarah Fluitt in this journey –



Steve Nelson FCC VA Trustee 817-379-8000 cell