



For Immediate Release

PRESS CONTACT: Chris Davis/Daniella Elghanayan 805/687-3322

Selection of New Hospice of Santa Barbara Executive Director Announced

Stephen Jacobsen to Lead Organization

July 21, 2008, Santa Barbara, CA—After an extensive and thorough search, the selection of the next Executive Director of Hospice of Santa Barbara has been made. Stephen Jacobsen, former Senior Pastor of Goleta Presbyterian Church, will serve at the helm of Hospice of Santa Barbara beginning in the fall.

The Hospice of Santa Barbara Executive Director search was conducted over nearly four months and included both local and national candidates. With an initial response of 120 applicants, five finalists were considered by the Selection Committee comprised of current Hospice of Santa Barbara Board of Directors members. The five candidates all served in senior management positions at nonprofit or public service organizations.

Jacobsen will be assuming the role of Executive Director following the retirement of Gail Rink, a well-known and respected expert in compassionate care and grief issues, who has led the organization for the past eight years. Rink will remain as a consultant, to assist in the transition, until the end of the year.

Jacobsen was Senior Pastor at Goleta Presbyterian Church for 16 years, served as a Visiting Scholar at the Department of Religious Studies at UCSB, taught courses in history and religious studies at Heritage College in Washington State, and was also Pastor at Community Presbyterian Church in Wapato, Washington.

He earned his Doctorate in Educational Leadership at Seattle University, received a Master of Divinity at Princeton Theological Seminary, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree from UCSB.

Jacobsen has served on several local boards including Interfaith Initiative, Isla Vista Youth Project and La Casa de Maria Retreat Center, and Hospice of Santa Barbara.

“The Board (of Hospice of Santa Barbara) is excited that after completing a statewide executive search, we were able to hire, out of a pool of very qualified professionals, a local candidate that brings strong leadership qualities to the organization,” said Hospice of Santa Barbara Board President Roger Heroux.

The mission of Hospice of Santa Barbara is to provide care to anyone experiencing the impact of a life-threatening illness, or grieving the death of a loved one.

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