



## Steve Jacobsen to Succeed Gail Rink at Hospice of Santa Barbara

By William M. Macfadyen, Noozhawk Publisher | Posted on 07/22/2008

Longtime Goleta Presbyterian Church pastor selected after a nationwide search with 120 candidates.

After an extensive search, [Hospice of Santa Barbara](#) announced Monday that it has selected Stephen Jacobsen, former senior pastor at [Goleta Presbyterian Church](#), as the nonprofit organization's new executive director.



Steve Jacobsen

Jacobsen will succeed Gail Rink, a leader in compassionate care and grief issues who is retiring in the fall after eight years at the helm. Rink will remain with the organization as a consultant and assist in the transition until the end of the year.

Jacobsen was senior pastor at Goleta Pres for 16 years and served as a visiting scholar at the [UCSB Department of Religious Studies](#). Previously, he taught history and religious studies at [Heritage University](#) in Toppenish, Wash., and was pastor at Community Presbyterian Church in Wapato, Wash.

A UCSB graduate, he received a Master of Divinity at [Princeton Theological Seminary and earned his doctorate in educational leadership at Seattle University](#).

Jacobsen has served on several local boards including the [Interfaith Initiative of Santa Barbara](#)

[County](#), [Isla Vista Youth Project](#), [La Casa de Maria Retreat & Conference 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 who brings strong leadership qualities to the organization," board president Roger Heroux said.

The four-month search process involved an initial pool of 120 local and national candidates, a list that was narrowed to 20 qualified applicants. Five finalists — all of whom served in senior management positions at nonprofit or public service organizations — were considered by the board selection committee.

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. Founded in 1974, it is the second oldest hospice program in the United States. The organization recently moved in to a brand-new facility on the Riviera, at 2050 Alameda Padre Serra, Suite 100.

Rink, who writes a popular monthly [Noozhawk](#) column called [Open Arms](#), has led the organization since 2001. Hospice of Santa Barbara and Noozhawk are partnering up on a memorials/obituaries feature that will make its debut later this month.

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