

Pastoral Search Team Begins Work

What has been traditionally called the call committee met on July 14 to begin the search for a new senior pastor for Calvary. One of the first things we decided to do was to change our label from “call committee” to “Pastoral Search Team” (PST). This term is used in many of the resources we’re studying, and it seemed to define what we are about more clearly and in a fresh way.

We are absolutely committed to being as transparent, accessible, and informative as possible throughout the search process. To that end, we have established several ways of communicating with the congregation. The bulletin board near the north entrance to the church will be dedicated to PST information.

There will include:

- monthly articles in the Crossroads
- weekly updates in the bulletin
- spots in the weekly emails from Calvary
- a current status report on Calvary’s website
- timely announcements at worship

In this issue of the Crossroads, as well as on the PST bulletin board, you will find photos and contact information for all 9 members of the PST. We welcome questions, comments, and suggestions.

The process ahead will include:

- Determining an overall plan for the search process
- Developing a profile of our congregation so that the congregation and any prospective pastors can be clear on the characteristics and direction of Calvary
- Developing a profile of the characteristics we are seeking in a pastor
- Developing a profile of Brookfield as a community

The development of these profiles will involve participation from the Calvary family by way of possible surveys, listening sessions, etc.

Once these profiles are completed, the PST will begin to gather names and contact potential candidates. Some names will be provided through the NALC. The congregation will be invited to submit names as well. Most of these candidates will currently be serving congregations. In order to avoid upheaval, rumors, etc. in those church families, we will share only minimal progress at this stage. Once a final candidate has been selected, the congregation will be informed more fully and a vote will be scheduled.

In closing, here is a list of 8 suggestions from an article entitled “Advice for Pastoral Search Committees”. We found it to be very helpful and know you will, too, as many of them really apply to our whole family.

1. Seek first the kingdom of God.
2. Pray without ceasing.
3. Be open to God’s surprises.
4. Exercise endurance and beware of exhaustion.
5. Represent your church accurately.
6. Get the true “downside” on all candidates.
7. Realize you can’t have it all.
8. Don’t swing too far on the pendulum.

On behalf of the Pastoral Search Team, I thank you for the trust you have placed in us. We are committed to letting our faithful God lead us and to following Him faithfully. We know He has the perfect plan for His people at Calvary. We know that His time is not our time. We are willing to work at His pace, and we look forward to the adventure on which our congregation is embarking!

Grace Gunnlaugsson
For the Pastoral Search Team