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Pastoral Search Team Updates

The pastoral search team continues to meet twice a month, studying 1 and 2 Timothy and discussing several resources including *When the Word Leads Your Pastoral Search* by Chris Brauns. We will be meeting with Pastor Brauns at Calvary on September 27 and will discuss his thoughts on Calvary's search process. We will continue to share his book during the adult education hour on Sunday mornings and encourage all adults to join us whenever you can.

We also appreciate that so many are praying for the search process. Please join us either at the front of the church or in the pews for the ten minutes preceding the beginning of all worship services.

Elsewhere in this issue, you'll find a few suggestions for prayers for the search team, the candidates and the congregation. We know you'll find them as helpful as we have. Prayer is a vital part of this time of preparation!

Prayer Suggestions for the Pastoral Search Process

1. Pray for the Pastoral Search Team

- Pray for patience. Pray that the group would wait for God's timing.
- Pray that your search team will have the mind of Christ and agree. Much of the process is subjective. Personal opinions and preferences are involved. Differences can divide. Ask that they would heed Paul's advice for unity, having the humble attitude of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:1-12, especially verse 5). It is so easy for us consciously – or more often, unconsciously – to bring our own agendas into church business.
- Pray for wisdom to choose the right person. Pray that the pastoral search team will renew their minds in the Bible so that they can have Word-centered wisdom (Romans 12:1-2).
- Pray for discipline for your search team and other church leaders. The search process will require a great deal of follow-through on the parts of individuals. It will also require that they not digress from the agenda or retrace decisions they have already made. Pray for unity and agreement between your council and the pastoral search team.

2. Pray for your next pastor.

- Pray that God would increase his passion for preaching the Word of God.
- Pray that God would give him a love for your church and the strength to leave his current position (if the candidate senses that is God's direction).
- Pray that your next pastor would begin new relationships at your church in the right way, even during the search process.
- Pray that God would prepare your future pastor to shepherd your flock more effectively through the trials and blessings he has faced or currently faces.
- Pray for your next pastor's family. Of course, he may be single or married. He may have children or not. God knows all that. Pray that God, who knows each detail about each member of your pastor's household, would give the members of his family strength as they consider leaving their current setting and going to a different church, or beginning pastoral ministry for the first time.

3. Pray for the people in your church.

- Pray for patience. The search process can go on longer than expected. It is hard for people doing the work of searching. It is also difficult for those in the congregation who must wait without knowing exactly what is going on. Pray that your people would trust the leadership and uphold you during the whole process.
- Pray that your people would learn to place a high priority on biblical preaching. It is easy to gravitate toward personality, programs, a particular "ideal" age, etc. Pray that, above all, the congregation would call a pastor who will proclaim the Word without apology.
- Pray that your people would not react to a previous pastor. Some churches struggle with wanting a pastor who is like their old one (they had a good experience). Other churches want someone who is just the opposite.

Reprinted from *When the Word Leads Your Pastoral Search* by Chris Brauns.