

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for your prayers! We feel them; we need them. We hope to see you at the all-church Praise and Prayer Night on October 30 as we pray for our church, our next lead pastor, the upcoming Missions Conference and our world-wide outreach.

Our activities will sound a bit familiar in this update: we have primarily been listening to sermons and conducting interviews in this past month. Several of our candidates have had their second interview, and we've had new applications coming in. We've had some discussions with a consultant who has been particularly helpful with input on the best ways to formulate our interview questions. It's exciting to see what the Lord is doing, in all corners of the country and the world, by skilled shepherd leaders who have a heart for Jesus and his church.

In November we plan to host some more "office hours" as we found these so helpful, giving us a chance to hear directly from members of the church. We value your input and want to provide you ways to interact with our committee work. Look for more details about this opportunity after the Missions Conference.

Can you continue to pray for us as we seek to be patient and to trust in the work of the Spirit during this search for our next lead pastor? We tend to leave our meetings energized, with action items and a renewed sense of purpose. But we've noticed that while we are still busy working on the weeks we do not meet in person, we are tending to our tasks more or less as individuals. Often, this translates to a greater need for encouragement during those spans of time when we are not gathering in person to process together. Would you pray for an extra measure of trust in the Lord's sovereign timing and power during the weeks we do not meet in person?

God is "able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

In Christ,

The Pastoral Search Committee (Dave Burbridge, Cindy Fitzgerald, Sarah Jones, Rob Joss, Tim Moniz, Russ Queen, Nina Walters, and Becki Whetsel)

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