

# May Update from the Pastoral Search Committee

Dear Church Family –

Thank you for your prayers as we continue to seek our next lead pastor. We are continually reminded that this is a mutual discernment process and that both the candidates and our committee are prayerfully engaging in our discussions with each other to find the right fit. In the last 6 months, we've had great progress with 6 solid candidates that we've really liked. We've vetted them and have been encouraged that our committee has been in consensus on each one. For various reasons in each of these instances, the fit hasn't been there.

We've also received a number of promising potential candidates that we've been eager to pursue from some of you and from our consultant Josh. Some of these ministers have expressed a desire to remain in their current calls, while others have been further along in and found other new calls. We continue to wait on the Lord's timing for our church to find the right minister to call.

We have office hours scheduled for this Sunday, May 21. Please stop by if you'd like to ask questions or pray with us; we'll be in one of the front building offices during the Sunday school hour, available for 15-minute segments.

And as you may have seen in yesterday's FPC News, we are holding a Day of Prayer and Fasting this coming Wednesday, May 24. We know you've been praying with us. In praying through the Psalms recently, we were reminded that our first priority is to seek for, even thirst for, God Himself. We are created for communion with God; the practice of fasting reminds us of this. As Dallas Willard says, "Fasting confirms our utter dependence upon God by finding in Him a source of sustenance beyond food."

Let's unite our hearts together and pray for God's wisdom, patience, and even thriving during this unique season in the life of our church. Though the whole day will be devoted to praying, we are encouraging each member to pray especially between the hours of 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. We encourage you to fast lunch that day if you are able; and for some, fasting the whole day would be appropriate. We also understand that there are those who for health reasons should not fast; in such cases, and even for others, fasting something else in our world of excesses might be more appropriate than food (screen time, social media, etc.) Whatever will help you to focus on the Lord and his sufficiency is the intention.

Members of our committee as well as some of the Session will be in the Glue/Atrium from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm on Wednesday, May 24 to pray with those who are able to attend in person. If you can come for just 30 minutes, or if you can come for longer, we will gather at the church for those who have that flexibility. For others, we encourage you to pause to pray at work, at home, at school, or wherever you may be during the lunch hour. To help each of us, the church will send an hourly reminder by email starting at 10:00 am. We'll also send out a sign-up link so you can let us know if you'd like to commit to a specific time slot during that day.

Praying and seeking with you all in Christ,

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

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