

Pastoral Search Team Report

May 2017

The Pastoral Search Team has continued to meet weekly. We have had the joy of getting to know one another by hearing each other's stories of faith, which has been a highlight of our time together.

In May, we spoke to several veteran pastors in other Presbyterian churches, and to the pastoral search team of Second Presbyterian in Memphis, who started their search about a year-and-a-half ago. We briefly reviewed some key points of reformed theology. We also reviewed the Evangelical Presbyterian Book Of Order's chapter on "Calling to Office" regarding calling a pastor (it's in Chapter 10, if you are interested. The Book of Order is available on the EPC website, www.epc.org).

Additionally, we invited members of the last CSPC pastoral search team—the one that selected John Wood 27 years ago—to share their experiences and advice with us.

Process

We agreed on a process for the work ahead of us, which involves the following steps:

1. Get oriented – study the scriptures regarding qualifications for a pastor (1 Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-8, and 1 Timothy 4:11-16), review the Transition Team's report, and review several books on pastoral searches.
2. Identify what we are looking for in a candidate.
3. Identify what the candidates will be looking at in us (put together an information packet on CSPC).
4. Form a candidate pool.
5. Evaluate candidates.
6. Interview candidates.

We have only just begun step 1, and we have not yet worked out many of the details for how we will conduct steps 5 and 6. We have broken up into smaller teams in order to carry out some of this work more nimbly. However, no decisions will be made without the consensus of the entire Pastoral Search Team.

A reminder, we have an email address where you may send candidate suggestions as well as any questions or recommendations. The address is pastoralsearch@cspc.net.

Continued prayer requests

For the Pastoral Search Team

- Pray that we will have the mind of Christ and agree
- Pray for wisdom to choose the right person
- Pray for discipline in our team and our church leadership

For the next pastor

- Pray that God will increase his passion for preaching the Word of God
- Pray that God will give him a love for CSPC and strength to leave his current position
- Pray that he would begin relationships at CSPC in the right way
- Pray that God would prepare our future pastor to shepherd the flock effectively
- Pray for the next pastor's family

For members of CSPC

- Pray for patience
- Pray that all would place a high priority on biblical preaching
- Pray that we are objective and eager to learn and hear the Word

Praying the Psalms

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we have been praying the Psalms together daily. Please join us in these prayers for the summer:

Sunday - Psalm 25:4-7 - Show us your ways, O Lord

Monday - Psalm 86:1-4, 11-13 - Hear us, O Lord, and answer us

Tuesday - Psalm 105:1-4 - Give thanks to the Lord and call on his name

Wednesday - Psalm 31:1-5 - In you, O Lord, do we take refuge

Thursday - Psalm 34:1-11 - We will bless the Lord at all times

Friday - Psalm 139:1-6, 13-16, 23-24 - O Lord, you have searched us and known us

Saturday - Psalm 37:3-7 - Trust in the Lord and do good