

Pastoral Search Team Report

September & October 2017

One of the books we considered as began this process was *When the Word Leads Your Pastoral Search* by Chris Brauns. He begins by retelling the story of Exodus 14, when Moses had led the Israelites out of the land of slavery, but they were trapped between the Red Sea and the armies of Egypt. He then tells the story of the “average” pastoral search team, one that is looking for the person who God is calling to lead their congregation. He makes the astounding claim that, comparing the two situations, the pastoral search team is in the more difficult position. Moses and the people of Israel clearly *knew* their situation was impossible, and that their only hope was for God to take action. The job of a pastoral search team is also impossible, and the team is inadequate. But we are often tempted to trust in our own strength and become self-reliant.

To quote Brauns, “Why is it that churches looking for pastors know that they need to pray, yet don’t pray? . . . the answer is a false sense of self-sufficiency. Churches think they can do this thing—this impossible thing—in their own strength.” (pg. 25).

We need to be praying, and we need the congregation praying with and for us. We are grateful to those who have let us know that they are praying, and for the many more who have perhaps never spoken a word to us, but have been calling out to God for His help, guidance, and wisdom through this process.

Now in our ninth month, we continue to meet almost weekly. In September, one of the smaller subteams – the process team – developed a process for candidate interviews. The team also developed a list of interview questions in four different areas: theological, leadership style, biblical qualifications, and philosophy of ministry. We are now entering that stage where it will be difficult to share many details because of the concerns of confidentiality.

Four team members, with the help of CSPC’s communications director Bryan Starmer made a video presentation to share with the congregation updates about where we are in the pastoral search process. An abbreviated version was shown during announcements on Sunday morning, November 12. A full video presentation, along with other information about the search (including reports from the team) can be found at the website:

<http://www.cspc.net/pastoral-search>

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
- Pray that God would give us a deeper love for and dependence upon him as we move through a season of transition

Praying the Psalms

We continue to pray the Psalms together daily. Please join us as we return to pray the Psalms of Ascent:

Sunday - Psalm 121 - Our help comes from you, O God

Monday - Psalm 123 - We look to you, O God

Tuesday - Psalm 125 - We trust in you, O God

Wednesday - Psalm 127 - You build this house, O God

Thursday - Psalm 130 - We wait for you, O God

Friday - Psalm 131 - Our hope is in you, O God

Saturday - Psalm 133 - We are one in you, O God