



We, the Search Team, unanimously believe Ben Barthelemy has the requisite character to shepherd Valley well. From our interactions with him and his references, it is clear that he loves Jesus and seeks God's leading in his life and choices. He also cares greatly about discipleship, both in his own life and in the lives of others, as a means to bring people ever closer to Jesus. Ben is humble, cognizant of and transparent about his own shortcomings, and he desires coaching and feedback to learn and grow. He is gentle, thoughtful, and caring. Ben is a shepherd.

We, the Search Team, unanimously believe Ben has the leadership qualities necessary to lead Valley well. He is a visionary, a uniter, and a collaborator. He is and, we believe, will continue to be, a leader that others want to follow. He is a peacemaker. He is willing to lean into hard things, and to do so with grace and sensitivity. Ben is a leader.

We, the Search Team, unanimously believe Ben will teach Valley well. He has the training and background necessary to provide the deep theological insight that Valley desires. He has an approach to preaching that seeks to reach all generations and to provide application such that lives will be impacted beyond just Sundays. Ben holds scripture in the highest regard and cares greatly about how he approaches and teaches scripture, including how he approaches potentially divisive issues. Ben is a teacher.

For these reasons - his character, his leadership, and his teaching - and many more, we, the Search Team, are very excited to unanimously recommend Ben Barthelemy to serve as the next senior pastor for Valley Free.

