

Dear church family;

Earlier this year, the Elders shared that we would be entering a time of transition and that we had hired Vanderbloemen, the largest Christian executive search firm in the country to help us in our search for a Teaching Pastor/Elder. When we began conversations with Vanderbloemen about the search process, they told us that it would be a challenging search. The Northeast is a challenging spiritual environment; we are orthodox in our doctrine, which limits the role of Pastor/Elder to men; and we are a true plurality of Elder led church. We cannot change our location and we will not change what we believe and how we are called to function as a church. So, we knew that God had to direct this search to His man to join us.

Several weeks after forming the Search Committee and beginning the search process in earnest with Vanderbloemen, we hired Travis as interim preacher, as we recognized the need to continue to provide consistent, solid biblical teaching on Sunday morning. Travis has done an excellent job in filling this role, while the Elders have continued to focus on the direction that God has been leading the church and the spiritual health and well-being of the congregation.

As the Search Committee and Elders were committed to Vanderbloemen and to the process that we had prayerfully begun, we

encouraged Travis to be among the applicants that would enter that process.

Once the Search Committee completed the work with Vanderbloemen on the search requirements and profile, the search went live on August 4, 2021. Since that time, the posting has been viewed over 1,200 times on Vanderbloemen's website, more than 100 people made inquiries and over 40 completed the application. They interviewed 15 men and our search consultant personally met with 7 men to discern how well they would fit with our doctrine, our mission, and our culture.

After Vanderbloemen completed their review and engagement with applicants, our search consultant met with the search committee on September 28th. At that time, the Search Committee was presented with two potential candidates who met all the criteria.

After reviewing the profiles, meeting the two applicants on a zoom call, listening to sermons, and praying to discern God's will, the Search Committee recommended, and the Elders agreed to continue the process with just one of these men, Travis Woronowicz.

Since that time, the Search Committee reviewed a multi-page questionnaire that had been provided to Travis and met with Travis and Rachel. This process was to ensure that the Search Committee had ample opportunity to engage Travis and ask any questions that they

had. The Elders were also engaged deeply in the process during this time. Travis completed an extensive doctrinal and personal questionnaire with follow-up meetings with the Elders. But our conversations weren't just about doctrine; we engaged deeply in personal convictions, passions, and challenges in our lives. The Search Committee was impressed with Travis' openness and humility, along with his deep love of Jesus and of his family. The Elders were impressed by his heart to grow in Christ and as a Pastor alongside of fellow brother Elders and the congregation we are called to lead in truth, love, and humility.

Throughout these past months, some have questioned the need to continue the search process at all, as it seemed clear that Travis was the right man to fill this role. While we understood these sentiments, we believed that we needed to see this process through, with the aim of Travis being affirmed not for being the easy choice or the local choice, but the right man called by God. And our constant focus during this whole process was that Travis and Rachel would feel loved, valued, honored, and respected in all ways, always. Both Travis and Rachel have expressed their great appreciation for how their family has been welcomed and drawn into the heart of BCC.

It is with thankful hearts that the Search Committee unanimously recommend, and the Elders unanimously affirm presenting Travis Woronowicz as the candidate for the role of Teaching Pastor/Elder here at BCC. In this role, Travis will be the primary teacher and preacher. Along with the Elders, he will be responsible for the spiritual growth, welfare, and life of the congregation. As we are a plurality Elder led church, Travis will have no greater or lesser authority than any other Elder. It is important to note that Rachel will have no official role or expectations here at BCC, other than to love and support her husband and her children.

While Travis and Rachel have now been with us for nearly 6 months, and we have had many opportunities to get to know them, it is important for you to have an opportunity to hear from Travis and ask questions. Following the service today, Travis will be meeting with the leadership of the church, including the Deacons, Deaconesses, Mission Committee, Ministry Leaders, and staff. Travis will be available after Foundations class this evening and on Wednesday evening for those who would like to join us.

Next Sunday, we will have a time of worship and prayer and then Travis will share more about himself before opening the floor for questions. At that time, ballots will be provided to members for the

vote of affirmation, with results to be announced immediately following. We will close in prayer and worship, thanking God for His faithfulness, direction, provision, and grace.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Search Committee, Marilyn Hannay, Peter Anderson, Betty Bassett, and Dave Elston, for their faithful, diligent work these last months.

If you have any questions about the search process, please see one of the members of the Search Committee. If you have any concerns about Travis or questions about his role as a Pastor/Elder here at BCC, please talk to an Elder.

We are grateful for your patience with the process, your support of the ministry of BCC and your love of Jesus and His church!

Humbly serving Christ,

The Elders of BCC:

Peter Siciliano
Tom Patterson
Geoff Ekstein
Mike Hannay
John Stewart