

Lead Pastor Search Team Update – July 2018

Dear Church Family,

We are pleased to provide this update from your Lead Pastor Search Team. As you may recall, our team was formed to recommend a pastoral candidate for Centennial Covenant Church active members to consider calling as Lead Pastor. Specifically, we are to seek God's leading to a person with the faith, character and gifts to fulfill this ministry's purpose, qualifications and responsibilities described in the Lead Pastor Ministry Description, based on the New Testament and Centennial Covenant Church's Bylaws (Article V, Section 3). The Search Team consists of seven active church members who were nominated by our Council of Elders and elected by you, our Congregation.

While we are diligently moving forward with the challenges set before us, some of you have approached us desiring clarification on why Centennial's Council of Elders felt led by God to conduct a pastoral search for our next Lead Pastor. We believe this question stems from a genuine concern about what the choice to carry out a search process means, when our body has a strong internal candidate already serving in our church family. There may be concern that a search process is a "move" away from this candidate. To understand the wisdom of a search process, and why it does not represent a choice toward or away from a particular candidate, it is necessary to understand the calling and goals of the Search Team...

The primary and superseding goal of the team is to carry out a process that aligns our will with God's will. God must have the first and final word regarding any leader of our church, current or future. Therefore, the Search Team is seeking to discern where the Spirit has, and is, moving in our body, and how we can align the leadership of our family with that movement. Second, the team is seeking to prepare our congregation and the next Lead Pastor for success in the coming transitional process. No matter who the next Lead Pastor is, it must be clear that the decision-making process that led to them being called was directed by the Father, not human presupposition or bias. This is clearly in the best interest of any candidate, be they internal or external, as it makes it clear that regardless of our personal opinions a transparent God-led discernment process led to the calling of the leader. We must seek to leave no room for seeds of doubt and insecurity to hinder our family and leadership as we move forward into the next chapter of our congregation's life together.

So, with this perspective, we continue to forge ahead using the 8 Priorities from our Search Team's Ministry Description, given to us by our Council of Elders, as our guide:

1. Build relationships of honesty and mutual encouragement as a Team of Christ-followers.
2. Practice abiding and listening prayer in Christ's presence to discern his direction.
3. Engage key stakeholders (Congregation, Elders, Staff, Denomination, etc.) for input.
4. Develop Congregational Profile for candidates' consideration.
5. Clarify with Elders ideal Lead Pastor Profile that's aligned with CCC's unique mission and callings.
6. Maintain clear and timely communication with Elders, Staff, Congregation, Candidates, and Denomination.
7. Discern pastoral candidate to meet and be considered by congregation.
8. Present candidate for Congregational decision.

Since elected by you on May 20, 2018 we have met together 6 times, including once with the Midwest Conference Superintendent of our Denomination, to begin addressing these Priorities - seeking God's guidance each step of the way. Our plan is to provide monthly updates to you throughout our journey. We will continue to gather until we believe God has confirmed to us His choice for the next Lead Pastor of Centennial Covenant. We will then present this candidate to you for your vote. Until then, we greatly appreciate your prayers!

Serving Him with you,

Your Search Team

Myrna Beblavi
Linda Birch (Elder Representative)
Robert Calbeck
Steve Logan (Team Leader)
Doug Parker (Elder Representative)
Kathy Pyc
Adam Wilson