

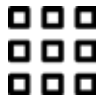
INTRODUCING

Dr. Jeremy Muniz

Senior Pastor Candidate



Dr. Jeremy and Jenny Muniz



Elders' Official Recommendation of Dr. Jeremy Muniz to the Congregation of Ridgecrest Baptist Church

To the Ridgecrest Baptist Church Family,

The elders of Ridgecrest Baptist Church believe God is at work, and we give Him the praise.

The elders have met with and interviewed Dr. Jeremy Muniz, spent time with him and his family, and listened to and studied his sermons.

After reviewing the search committee's interviews with Pastor Jeremy, recommendations from other pastors and leaders, and spending time in prayer, the Elders unanimously support the search committee, and strongly and enthusiastically recommend that Dr. Jeremy Muniz be brought before the church for a vote in view of a call to be our next senior pastor.

We believe he will preach the Word of God from the pulpit and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. We feel he will be a leader who loves people, loves the local church, will shepherd the people of Ridgecrest, and loves to teach others to be leaders while bringing people to Christ.

Blessings from your Elder Board,
Chairman Rex McMillan
Vice Chairman Chris Rees
Secretary Scott Rhodes
Brent Barker
Jim Lauderdale
Ken Rogers



Pastor Search Team Formal Recommendation to the Elders

As a team, we have been meeting and praying together since January. While we may detail in this report the work and contacts we have made, we realize it is God's work, God's connections, and God's movement in people's hearts that make a recommendation and a fit possible.

We followed a similar process as we did five years ago. One of the changes we made was to seek referrals with personal contacts and inquiries to seminaries and pastors instead of blanket advertisements. We received a significant number of names and recommendations. We followed up with each name. We heard back from 57 possible candidates. For the most part, the candidates were well qualified. Of those applicants, we sent questionnaires to seven, seeking additional information and answers to some targeted questions. We then took several weeks with each questionnaire, praying over it and studying it, while doing additional research on those candidates. This process always included statistical information and, in many cases, it also included contacting other pastors, counselors and leaders.

—
GOD

CLEARLY
ANSWERED
OUR VERY
SPECIFIC
PRAYERS.

We ultimately ended with three top candidates, all with successful experience as senior pastors. Together they had a combined 40 years of experience as a senior pastor. God clearly answered our very specific prayers. He removed other candidates so we could focus on the one individual who is best equipped to lead Ridgecrest. God helped to bring our team together, and He helped us to have a shared perspective on this topic.



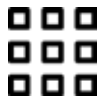
**LISTEN NOW:
SERMONS BY PASTOR JEREMY**

Visit sermonaudio.com and listen to these sermons recommended by the Senior Pastor Search Team. Use the search bar at the very top of the screen.

- Joy In The Storm
- How To Live A Beautiful Gospel Life In A Broken World
- Bulldozers and Builders
- A Dog's Life
- Our Subtle Foe And What He Steals

After much prayer, research, counsel, and seeking God as a team, we unanimously, enthusiastically and prayerfully recommend Dr. Jeremy Muniz to the elders of Ridgecrest for the position of senior pastor. We believe Dr. Muniz is the man whom God has raised up to lead Ridgecrest. We see evidence of God's fingerprints in this process and the research done by this team. Dr. Muniz is mature; experienced in building campaigns and leading amid difficult situations; and accustomed to helping people and church staffs recover from grief. He is a lifelong learner, a lover of the Word, a gifted preacher, a man with impeccable character and integrity, disciplined, a people person. He has the gift of mercy.

The Ridgecrest Baptist Church Senior Pastor Search Team:
Brent Barker, Lori Bratanov, David L. Burton, Bob Cann,
Debbie Cherry, Shayla Hale and Jennifer Hendrickson



Résumé of Dr. Jeremy Muniz

MINISTRY HISTORY

First Baptist Church; *Desoto, Missouri*: Senior Pastor, 2000 to present
First Baptist Church; *Blum, Texas*: Senior Pastor, 1998 to 2000
American Hospice: Bereavement Coordinator and Chaplain, 1997 to 1998
Sandy Creek Baptist Church; *Tamms, Illinois*: Senior Pastor, 1995 to 1997

EDUCATION

Doctor of Ministry: Covenant Theological Seminary | St. Louis, 2009
Master of Divinity: Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, 2000
Bachelor of Arts: Mid-Continent University, 1997

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DESOTO

During the Tenure of Jeremy Muniz:

- First Baptist has grown from mid-400s to more than 600 in average attendance. It has 2,300 members.
- It has celebrated 553 baptisms since 2000 (average of 31 per year).
- The church relocated in 2011 to a new 22-acre property with a new multipurpose facility.
- First Baptist gives 12 percent to the Cooperative Program.
- The Church is on mission in Taiwan and Italy and makes at least one churchwide mission trip to each location every year.
- In Taiwan, the church leads English camps in junior high and high schools, sharing the Gospel with the hope of one day establishing church plants in cities lacking an evangelical church.
- In Italy, the church comes alongside a small, but feisty, church south of Verona to facilitate church growth and church strengthening.
- The church developed its local missions initiative, “God Loves Desoto” (GLD), to take the Gospel out into the community (car shows, interaction with public school system, serving ministry).

Dr. Muniz Elected President of Missouri Baptist Convention

Dr. Jeremy Muniz, candidate for senior pastor at Ridgecrest Baptist Church, was nominated for president of the Missouri Baptist Convention (MBC) in Springfield, Mo., on Oct. 23, 2018, by Joe Costephens, pastor of First Baptist Church Ferguson.



Dr. Muniz was elected by the convention and will serve as MBC president for at least one year. His duties will include chairing meetings of the MBC executive committee and chairing next year's state convention.

Ridgecrest is a member of the Missouri Baptist Convention and a strong supporter of the Cooperative Program and state mission efforts.



LEARN MORE:
VISIT MOBAPTIST.ORG



Interesting Facts: Jeremy Muniz

Name: “Muniz” is Portuguese

Hobbies: Jeremy enjoys playing golf and and running. He is on pace to run 1,000 miles this year.

Favorite Music: His favorite hymn is Charles Wesley’s “And Can It Be.” His other favorite song is “Let it Be” by the Beatles.

Favorite Book: Jeremy’s favorite book is the Bible. “I spend the most time reading and studying this book,” he says.

Currently Reading: He is currently reading a biography of D. Martin Lloyd Jones by Jason Meyer; a book on the periodic table/chemistry entitled, *The Disappearing Spoon*, by Sam Kean; and a work of historical fiction by Bernard Cornwell entitled, *War of the Wolf*.

Professional: He has served in various roles with the Missouri Baptist Convention, including first vice president (2017-2018). He was elected on Oct. 23, 2018, to serve as president of the MBC in 2019.

Special focus in MBC: Jeremy has worked to focus convention energies on issues surrounding the emotional health of pastors and church leaders.

Association work: He is chairman of Jefferson Baptist Association’s long range planning team and served as pastoral care director for the county association.



Interesting Facts: Muniz Family

Hometown and High School: Jenny grew up outside of Metropolis, Illinois, and both Jeremy and Jenny went to Massac County High School. They met in a high school typing class.



Marriage: Jeremy and Jenny have been married 21 years.

Jenny, wife: Jenny is a second grade teacher at Desoto Elementary School.

Averi, daughter: Averi is 17 years old. She is a member of the St. Louis Children's Choir and has performed in choir productions on stage at Carnegie Hall in New York City and in various venues in Scotland.

Zachary, son: Zachary is 14 years old. He loves all things sports and reportedly has a fastball with movement.

Family Pets: The Muniz family has a dog, Natasha, and a cat, Jane Austen.

Favorite things to do as a family: The family enjoys Walt Disney World and Venice, Italy.



Q & A with Dr. Jeremy Muniz

Why are you considering a call to a new church?

THIS IS WHY I
AM COMPELLED
TO CONSIDER
THIS NEW
POSSIBILITY,
TRUSTING THAT
GOD WILL
PROVIDE
FOR MY FAMILY.

God has graciously allowed me to remain in one pastorate for 18 years. My children have known no other church family. From a purely rational point of view, it would be best for us to stay where we are for another four years so our children will not have to contend with a major transition in their lives at such a critical time. However, we serve a God who called Abraham to leave his country and kin to make a great nation (Genesis 12:1). We serve a God who redirected the Apostle Paul from Asia to Europe at a critical juncture in his ministry (Acts 16:6).

And finally, we serve a God who called men like William Carey and Adoniram Judson to sacrifice more than my heart can fathom to serve God faithfully. My wife and I want to be faithful to our Savior, and we want to honor His call in our lives, wherever that may lead. There are no words I can use to express the mysterious stirring in my heart that I am experiencing. It feels God is doing something new in my life and in our family. In the face of such mystery, all we can do is faithfully take



one step at a time. This is why I am compelled to consider this new possibility, trusting that God will provide for my family.

How do you build trust with the congregation?

One of my favorite passages of scripture is I John 4:18. It reads, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear." The only way a transition such as this will be

successful is if the new pastor determines from the start that love will win the day.

I would communicate clearly with the congregation the call to "love one another" and express that love tangibly through humble ministry. Our Lord washed the feet of His disciples (John 13), and I feel such servant leadership, filled with the deep love of God, is the biblical way to build trust. Finally, I believe a steady diet of faithful biblical preaching will help join hearts together.

Describe your pastoral style.

I was called to pastor my first church at age 19. From my first Sunday in the pulpit to the present, I believe God has put a deep love in my heart for the people of God. Ministry can be stressful and preaching is hard work. But no matter how many challenges I have faced in pastoral ministry, the joy of getting to be with Christ-followers and sharing life together with them has been a primary motivator of my life and pastoral

calling. I do feel the call to be a lover of the souls of men, women, boys and girls. My doctoral dissertation focused on funeral preaching due to my conviction that emotionally trying times provide an open door for Gospel grace and divine mercy. I approach the pastorate as a doctor of souls. I want to bind up broken hearts and help them find healing in the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.

How do you make time for your family?

A pastor has to work hard to find balance in this crucial area of life. I have found this balance has to be calibrated in light of the current season of life my family is experiencing. For example, when my children were little, I consciously avoided denominational endeavors or mission trips that would keep me away from my family. I felt my primary ministry in those days was to care for my wife and children by helping with their everyday needs. As my children have grown and become more self-sufficient, I have increased my denominational service and the frequency of mission trips. Currently, my day off is Friday, and I try to accomplish every household chore or task during the time my children are at school. This provides us with more time to enjoy our weekends as a family. Because of my wife's career as a public school teacher and my children's busy extracurricular activities, we have to work hard and plan well to spend quality time together as a family.

I felt this was an opportunity
the Lord wanted me to pursue.

What did you see that attracted you to our church?

As an officer of the Missouri Baptist Convention, I have known about Ridgecrest for several years. I have been impressed with the Great Commission passion of your congregation and your generosity as it relates to the Cooperative Program. In the past few years, your former pastor and I became friends while serving on the executive board of the

MBC. Through that friendship, I was able to learn about the church's great love for its pastor and the many ways Ridgecrest was doing its part to fulfill the Great Commission. My heart has been content to remain in my current ministry context. However, when I received an invitation from the committee to submit a résumé, I felt this was an opportunity the Lord wanted me to pursue. Had I not been familiar with Ridgecrest, I might not have inquired further.

Dear Search Team

Pastor Jeremy was recommended to the search team by two pastors.

I wanted to pass on a résumé for you and your search team. Dr. Jeremy Muniz is a faithful husband, dad and pastor. I do not know if he is the one to be your next pastor, but I do believe he has the ability in the Lord to do so. I have a peace in the Lord to pass his name forward to you. His longevity as a pastor in a strong biblically conservative Baptist church, plus his service in our Baptist denomination is reassuring. I feel he is worth a prayerful look. I know God will guide you all.

Kenny Qualls
Senior Pastor,
First Baptist Church
of Arnold, Mo.

I would recommend that you contact Dr. Jeremy Muniz at First Baptist Church of Desoto. He is brilliant, a great teacher, refined, polished and funny. Jeremy is a Baptist man's Baptist. Jeremy believes passionately in the Gospel and Bible-based preaching. Plus, he has done well at Desoto for over 18 years.

Dr. Neil Franks
President of the
Missouri Baptist Foundation
Former senior pastor at First
Baptist Branson, Mo.



SHARE WITH A FRIEND:

VISIT [RIDGECRESTBAPTIST.ORG/PASTORSEARCH](https://www.ridgecrestbaptist.org/pastorsearch)



SCHEDULE IN VIEW OF A CALL

Sunday, Nov. 25

Information about senior pastor candidate available in the foyer.

Monday, Nov. 26

6:30 p.m. **Deacons & Wives** | Meet & Greet | Fellowship Center
Child care R.S.V.P. at kayla@ridgecrestbaptist.org

Tuesday, Nov. 27

6:30 p.m. **Small Group Leaders** | Meet & Greet | Fellowship Center
Child care R.S.V.P. at kayla@ridgecrestbaptist.org

Wednesday, Nov. 28

6:30 p.m. **Pastor's Bible Study** | Worship Center | *Open to All*
rbcLittles (Preschool Hall)/rbckids (Ridgecrest Room)

7:30 p.m. **Meet & Greet** | Fellowship Center | *Open to All*
+ Andy's Frozen Custard (bring children with you)

Thursday, Nov. 29

12 p.m. **Young at Heart** | Fellowship Center | *Ages 55+*

6 p.m. **Celebrate Recovery** | Fellowship Center | *Open to All*

Friday, Nov. 30

6:30 p.m. **Meet & Greet + Q&A** | Worship Center | *Open to All*
Preschool care provided.

Saturday, Dec. 1

Small Groups gather in homes to pray | *Open to All*

Sunday, Dec. 2

8 a.m. **Sunday Morning** | Worship Center | *Open to All*
Vote at end of service

9:30 a.m. **Sunday Morning** | Worship Center | *Open to All*
Vote at end of service

11 a.m. **Sunday Morning** | Worship Center | *Open to All*
Vote at end of service



RIDGECREST
BAPTIST CHURCH