BIBLICAL PRAYERS for SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH

JANUARY 21, 2018

To the members of Ridgecrest Baptist Church:

It is with deep humility and total God-reliance that we have accepted the call to be your senior pastor search team. In accepting this role, our absolute commitment is to draw near to God and seek His full and perfect will in this process. We are convinced this time of seeking God must be a church-wide commitment to fervent and united prayer. We are utterly dependent upon the daily prayers of every member of this special body of believers.

Studies show the period of a pastor search is a crucial time in the life of any church. It is a time for us to draw especially close to God in surrender, prayer and confident faith. This is not a time to rush a decision or to panic. God intends for the search period to be a time when we strengthen our prayers, deepen our holiness and draw closer to one another. This should be a period when we pray almost as much for ourselves as we do for the pastor search efforts.

> GOD INTENDS FOR THE SEARCH PERIOD TO BE A TIME WHEN WE STRENGTHEN OUR PRAYERS, DEEPEN OUR HOLINESS AND DRAW CLOSER TO ONE ANOTHER. THIS SHOULD BE A PERIOD WHEN WE PRAY ALMOST AS MUCH FOR OURSELVES AS WE DO FOR THE PASTOR SEARCH EFFORTS.

In light of these spiritual realities, the senior pastor search team asks each member to take time every day to fervently pray that day's prayer from both of the lists provided in this booklet. Place these lists in your Bible or a very conspicuous place. If we all continually pray through these scriptural prayers, our united agreement will greatly increase the power of our intercession (Matthew 18:19 and Acts 2:1). Our collective prayers are only as powerful as our personal lives are clean (Psalms 66:18 and James 5:16). It is vital that we all take our level of personal spiritual cleansing and prayer to a biblical level of effectiveness. By doing this, we can rest assured of His blessing and direction.

We want you to know that we have already been meeting as a team. We have been praying diligently, corresponding throughout the week, reading books, and talking to wise counsel. We are all taking this task very seriously and listening for God's direction because, like you, we want what is best for our church. It is very important for everyone to know that all seven members have been unanimous in our decisions. While we would love to go into detail on our work, we must balance this with the confidentiality this process deserves. We appreciate your understanding of this constraint. We understand that this process can cause some to be anxious, unsure and unsettled. We can appreciate that there may be concerns along the way. Our team fully believes that this process is not about us or about a particular candidate - it is about what God wants for our church. God is waiting for our prayers for His guidance and wisdom in leading us to the next pastor He has identified for Ridgecrest. In truth, this can be an exciting time in the life of our church. As we seriously pray and seek God's face, He will do a glorious work in us and lead us to His perfect will.

Let us with great joy and confidence join hands and draw near to our wonderful Lord. We are praying for the congregation as much as we hope you are praying for us during this important time.

Senior Pastor Search Team

Brent Barker Lori Bratanov David Burton Bob Cann Dr. Debbie Cherry Shayla Hale Jennifer Hendrickson

We have prepared this booklet as a convenient tool for use by all active youth and adult church members during Small Groups, weekly corporate prayer meetings and personal prayer times.

FOR THE CONGREGATION

SUNDAY: John 17:21, I Corinthians 1:10 | Pray for great unity in calling the new pastor. Lord, help us to receive him and his family with deep love and renewed commitment. Grant us a powerful sense of revival and spiritual awakening as we move into the future. Pray for grace, guidance and strength for the church from which our new pastor comes.

MONDAY: Jeremiah 29:13, James 4:8 | Pray the pastor search period will be a time the church learns to seek God Himself more than just a new pastor. Lord, teach us to draw closer to Jesus and trust Him as the true head of the Church.

TUESDAY: **Psalm 66:18, Psalm 139:23-24** | Pray for a powerful move of congregational cleansing and renewal. Lord, please cause this to be a time of healing, cleansing and renewal in our church.

WEDNESDAY: **Revelation 2:1-4, Revelation 3:15** | Pray for consistency and focus in the present ministry of the church. Please grant power to our staff. Protect us from being lukewarm or losing our first love. Remind us that we serve Jesus, not a pastor.

THURSDAY: John 13:34, John 17:21 | Pray for a miraculous sense of love and unity among all members of the church. Help us surrender any and all bitterness, division and anger within our church family. Lord, empower us to love one another with a patient, forbearing love.

FRIDAY: **Hebrews 6:12** | Pray that we will patiently await God's timing and settle for nothing less than His perfect will. His timing is not our timing. Ask God for His mercy in giving us a true man of God and a great leader. Prepare the heart of our next pastor and his family for changes they could face in taking on this new role.

SATURDAY: Ephesians 4:1-6 | Pray that we are prepared to make the necessary changes to embrace a new day of ministry. Lord, we understand a new pastor always means changes. Help us to be prepared to change and grow with graciousness and unity.

The prayers in this booklet are from the congregational prayer format suggested in Dr. Gregory Frizzell's book, Seeking God to Seek a Pastor.

FOR THE SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

SUNDAY: I Corinthians I:IO, Acts 2:I | Pray for God's guidance in how the future pastor is presented to the church. Pray for the church to have supernatural unity in his call to our church. Pray for God's strength and guidance in the pastor's former church.

MONDAY: **Psalm 66:18, John 15:5, Ephesians 5:18** | Pray for deep spiritual cleansing and fullness of the Holy Spirit in each team member. Pray this for each member by name. Pray for the search team to have supernatural wisdom as to the unique characteristics and traits most needed for our church.

TUESDAY: Matthew 15:14 | Pray for keen supernatural discernment, wisdom and strength for the team chairman.

WEDNESDAY: **Amos 3:3, Matthew 18:19** | Pray for powerful unity and oneness of spirit within the team. Pray for the prevention of Satan's influence in misleading or rushing the search team. (One of Satan's wiles is deception and another is anxiety.) Pray for a powerful hedge of protection around the team and their families.

THURSDAY: **Proverbs 14:12, Isaiah 55:8-9** | Pray for God's clear direction in how résumés are collected and examined by team members and how interviews are conducted. Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the team. God, make your choice clear to the team.

FRIDAY: I Corinthians 2:10-16 | Pray for the search team to have God's wisdom in all the questions and information they share with the prospective pastor. Spirit-led thoroughness is essential. This search is not a contest. We are seeking God's one chosen leader for this church, not just the best speaker.

SATURDAY: Ephesians 5:17 | Pray for the team to have no timetable for this process other than God's. They must be determined to find God's perfect will in God's perfect time.

