

UPDATE ————— MAY 20, 2018

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH TEAM

PASTOR SEARCH PRAYERS & PROGRESS

To the members of Ridgecrest Baptist Church:

Our greatest asset is our weakness because that is when we are most dependent on the strength of God. That leads us to pray. We pray because we need God's help. We pray because we cannot do this on our own. Lord, guide our team and reveal to us Your direction and choice. Lord, use our weaknesses and willingness.

As our checklist inside shows, we have been diligently meeting and working through a process to find the man who God wants to lead Ridgecrest. We spend a great deal of our time in prayer, but there are also phone calls to make, résumés to review, sermons to watch, updates to give the congregation and prayer guides to write.

We are working to keep the congregation apprised of where we are in the process. As the field narrows, we will tell you. However, we will not have preacher tryouts. Our prayers are to find the one candidate God has for this church. We are seeking prayer for the process and for patience as we seek God's timing. We do not sense a need to rush. Since God knows us better than we know ourselves, we are free to take a deep breath, open our hands, and, with humble hearts, say to God, "Even in the midst of chaos and great pain, we trust that You know our deepest needs. So we won't try and run past You or tell You what is best. We choose to instead acknowledge our limitations and weaknesses, trusting that You are always working for our good."

Senior Pastor Search Team

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PROGRESS CHART FOR PASTOR SEARCH

X = STEP COMPLETED OR IN PROCESS

Preparation and Self Study: Psalms 10:17 KJV

- X Select team members
- X Team organizes itself (selects chairman, sets meeting dates, etc.)
- X Congregational prayer guide distributed
- X Introduction of team/Congregational prayer over team (Feb. 18)
- X Team self-study of search and needs
- X Survey of Congregation (March 11 — March 30)
- X Team gathers denominational resources and contacts
- X Team develops church profile and position description

Process and Search: Matthew 7:7

- X Congregational prayer meetings (July 15, 6-7 p.m.)
- X Search team begins 21-day prayer study/challenge
- X Begin enhanced congregational communication (April 8 and May 20)
- X Advertise vacancy locally and nationally (began April 9)
- X Network for the referral of qualified candidates
- X Notify Baptist seminaries, conventions, and associations of open position
- X Start receiving résumés
- X Refine team method of sorting and scoring résumés
- X Pray over résumés
- X Evaluate résumés
- X Prioritize candidates and follow-up with questionnaires
- X Watch or listen to sermons of candidates
- ___ Evaluate and pray over completed candidate questionnaires
- ___ Run background checks on top candidates
- ___ Visit the churches of top candidates

Decision: 1 Samuel 16:4-13

- ___ Decide on top finalists/conduct interviews
- ___ Decide on top candidate that God wants us to pursue
- ___ Deal with top candidates one at a time as long as God keeps the door open. Or, if He closes the door, move to next candidate. Includes
 - ___ Visit and observe finalists
 - ___ Conduct additional interviews
 - ___ Make site visits/Invite candidate to Ridgecrest
- ___ Pray over candidate and seek God to determine that he is the one
- ___ Recommend candidate to the elders
- ___ Candidate visits in view of a call

Praise: Psalm 65:1-4

- ___ Introduction of candidate to congregation; multiple opportunities to meet
- ___ Church votes
- ___ Set a date for start of new Senior Pastor and churchwide celebration

FOR THE CONGREGATION

SUNDAY: John 17:21, 1 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 forward. 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, send revival and teach us to draw closer to Jesus and trust Him as the true head of the Church.

TUESDAY: Romans 12:9-18 | Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord's people who are in need.

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

THURSDAY: Exodus 32:1-6 | As a congregation, let us seek revival, seek God and dream big. Lord, You are no lover of the status quo. We must change to become more like Jesus and to draw more people into You. Kill our sacred cows; turn our hearts outward; let our focus be on others; and let our hearts incline us toward service.

FRIDAY: Genesis 18:14 | 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: Hosea 10:12 | Lord, we ask individually that You come and reveal fallow ground in our lives — reveal any hidden sin or hardness of heart. We seek You with all of our heart so that You will rain down righteousness on each one of us in Your time.

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: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 | “Two are better than one ... For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!” Pray for our church family and our search team, that we will be a support to each other and trust the efforts of the search team.

MONDAY: Psalm 66:18, Psalm 51:10 | Pray for each search team member by name and ask that each would repent of any sin that would impair his/her ability to hear the Lord. 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 supernatural discernment, wisdom and strength for the team chairman, David Burton. This applies especially to conversations he has on behalf of the entire search team with potential candidates.

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 team. Pray for a powerful hedge of protection around the team and their families.

THURSDAY: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 | Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the team. God, make your choice clear to the team. Lord, please provide the team with a name in a way that is obvious, apparent and done in a way that points to You.

FRIDAY: Isaiah 30:21 | Lord, we ask that your voice would speak to our search team members and be clear. No matter which direction they move, may they hear your voice and heed your direction as they seek a new senior pastor.

SATURDAY: Ephesians 5:17 | Pray for the team to seek God’s timetable for this process. They must be determined to find God’s perfect will in God’s perfect time. Lord, do not let our heart’s desire to have a senior pastor cause us to rush and miss you.