



## Pulpit Search Committee Update

*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1*

### **Succession update for November 2019: A recommitment to our legacy**

The goal of the Pulpit Search Committee is to create a seamless transition through a transparent and open process to recommend to the church a candidate for senior pastor who is capable of building upon the inspired legacy of FBCLG and Pastor Soaries. With your support and continued prayers, we believe that God will provide a leader that will build on our strong foundation and remain focused on unifying our church to do the Lord's work, utilizing the strength of our diversity, attracting and retaining active members, and ensuring financial continuity.

### **Voice of the Church: Thank you for your feedback**

In October, the PSC embarked on a listening journey to learn from you your thoughts about where FBCLG should go in the future. This also was an opportunity to hear from you about what you are looking for in a new pastor. Our prime tools were a survey, several focus groups that were organized by generation, and a town hall meeting. Participation was very strong and your feedback was heard. We intend to use what you've told us to help us guide the pastoral search process and to help set an agenda for the direction of FBCLG over the next several years.

In many ways, this is the most important part of this pastoral selection process. Led by God, you have voiced your desires, concerns, ideas and thoughts regarding the future of this church. We thank you for taking the time to participate.

### **A search update from Vanderbloemen**

In September, Vanderbloemen, our search firm, began an active search process for a new pastor. To date, they have received several hundred resumes. Vanderbloemen is helping the PSC vet potential candidates for pastor. They are conducting the initial review of resumes based upon set criteria, such as whether the candidate has the appropriate qualifications, experience and educational background. The feedback that you provided to us about what you find important in a pastor also is being shared with them.

Vanderbloemen has informed us that the number of submitted resumes is high with many arriving in the last few weeks of October. Some of our church members and clergy also have provided candidate names to them. We thank you for those names. Over the next few weeks it is expected that PSC will see an initial set of resumes for our review. Once this effort begins, we will be actively engaged in reviewing candidate credentials.

### **Updating FBCLG membership**

The PSC, in concert with FBCLG leadership, will begin a process to update our membership database, Faith In Action Central (FIAC). This will allow members to confirm their membership, update vital information, learn how to use FIAC and, for those who have been 'dating' FBCLG, consider joining this house of the Lord. Updating the membership list will help the church in many ways, including keeping you current on

church activities, the ability for ministries to communicate amongst one another, and, ultimately, to ensure that members of the church will have the opportunity to vote to select FBCLG's new pastor next year. Please look out for more information in the near future on how you can assist in this process.

### **Hearts We Win website**

The Hearts We Win website has launched and can be found on FBCLG's homepage, <https://fbcsomerset.com/hww/>. While parts of the site are still under construction, we hope it will serve as a one-stop resource for you with PSC information found in the Leadership section, <https://fbcsomerset.com/hww/hww-leadership/>.

### **Pastor's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Sonja Asante and Steve Cooper, who were instrumental in leading FBCLG's 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee, have agreed to lead efforts to recognize Pastor's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2020. This 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary team has already begun preliminary planning to celebrate the legacy and contribution of Pastor Soaries, First Lady Donna Soaries, and the Soaries family. Please contact Sonja and Steve if you're interested in helping the anniversary team.

### **PSC email address**

As a reminder, the PSC email address is active. It is [psc@fbcsomerset.com](mailto:psc@fbcsomerset.com). If you have any questions, recommendations or concerns, please share them with us.

### **A continued request for prayer**

The PSC asks that you continue to pray for us and all of those who are and will be involved in the pastoral selection process. You, through God's will, have placed significant responsibility on us. We remain humbled by such trust and we therefore ask for your continued prayers. We also ask that you pray for FBCLG so that we will hear God's voice when he sends us the right man or woman to lead this part of Zion. We also ask that you continue to pray for Pastor Soaries, his family and, most importantly, for one another during this season of transition.

Thank you and continued blessings.

The Pulpit Search Committee,

Deacon Lawrence Hibbert, Chair

Trustee Ali Wilson, Vice Chair