

Pulpit Search Committee Update

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

FAQs

Succession Update for February 2020: A recommitment to our legacy

Since August, the Pulpit Search Committee (PSC) has been providing monthly updates through Faith In Action Central (FIAC), along with providing updates at the End of Year Church Meeting and January 2020 Leadership Meeting. Based on the questions we have received from congregants, we are providing answers to FAQs (frequently asked questions).

What is the current status of the search for a new Pastor?

We are in the second of four phases of the interview process. Our pool of candidates has been generated from a national search that included referrals, recommendations and responses to the Senior Pastor Job posting. All candidates in the pool have been reviewed and screened by Vanderbloemen. A subset of this pool was recommended by Vanderbloemen to be interviewed by the PSC. Phase 1 interviews consisted of a rigorous review of credentials, qualifications and preaching samples, along with a 2-hour virtual interview with PSC members. The highest-rated candidates were invited to Phase 2 of the process, where they will participate in in-person interviews with the PSC over two-days. In this phase, the PSC will explore how the candidate will lead at FBCLG and in the community. If there is a spouse, we will ask the candidates to bring them to meet members of the PSC in person. Phase 2 candidates will be evaluated with the intent of recommending a single candidate to the Church. Prior to the presentation of this candidate to the church, the third phase includes negotiations of employment terms. If there is agreement, the PSC will move to Phase 4 and present the finalist to the congregation. Specifically, the candidate and their family will be invited to a multiday visit to FBCLG where they will be engaged in preaching, worshipping and small group fellowship. Once the multiday visit is completed, a call for the elections will be made. This will be the opportunity for Active Members to vote on the next Senior Pastor of FBCLG.

In general, can you tell me a little bit about the candidates so far?

The candidates are all very strong. Each of them has unique strengths and weaknesses. The teaching and application of the Word of God is at the core of their ministry and daily walk. The candidates have varying perspectives about church leadership and are very focused on pastoral care. They all bring a desire to uplift children and young adults, along with a strong affection for seniors and families. Many have thoughtful ideas and concrete examples of their work in reaching diverse people in-and-out of the church. The interviews have been informative, engaging and enlightening.

How many candidates will come to preach?

In the coming weeks, we anticipate that the PSC will come to the church with one recommendation for the next Senior Pastor of FBCLG. That person will be invited to spend several days at our Church. During this time, we anticipate that the candidate will teach Bible study classes, preach and get to know our congregation. We expect that the candidate will preach at both the 7 AM and 10 AM Sunday services.

We will provide the church with their background and sample sermons for you to review. During the candidate visit, we will set up opportunities for members to meet them and their family.

What is the election process for the new Pastor?

We will follow the FBCLG Constitution and By-Laws as it prescribes the election process. In the coming weeks, we will provide more details about the election to church members, including information about safeguards and election integrity. This election will require a vote of a two-thirds majority of members present at a called business meeting to move forward with the next Senior Pastor of FBCLG.

How do I know that I am eligible to vote?

The PSC in concert with FBCLG leadership has begun a process to update our membership database. This will allow members to confirm their membership status, update vital information and learn how to use FIAC more effectively. For those who have been 'dating' FBCLG, there will be an opportunity for you to consider joining this house of the Lord. Updating the membership database has many benefits: (1) ensure that you receive timely updates on church activities, (2) allow ministries to communicate more effectively with members, and (3) ensure that active members have the opportunity to select FBCLG's new Pastor. Expect to receive more information in the coming weeks.

Is there anything that I should be doing in the meantime?

Yes. The PSC asks that you continue to pray for all involved in the Pulpit selection process. We would like to extend that request to include each of our families. 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.

As this interview process is now in full swing, we ask for even more fervent prayer for our church. Over the past month to six weeks, we have seen turmoil all around our community, state and country. The evil one continues to do his work (e.g. distract, tear apart and lie), however, we must continue to focus on God's will for FBCLG. We continue to ask for specific prayers for our Pastor, First Lady and their family. We also ask that you lift up our Clergy, Deacons, Trustees and other leaders so that they can continue to make good and wise decisions. Lastly, we ask that you pray for all the candidates including their families and congregations as they weigh this very important decision.

If I have any additional questions, how can I contact you?

As a reminder, please use the PSC email (psc@fbc Somerset.com) to share any questions, recommendations, or concerns with the committee.

Thank you and continued blessings,

The Pulpit Search Committee,

Deacon Lawrence Hibbert, Chair

Trustee Ali Wilson, Vice Chair