



Pulpit Search Committee

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

March 2020

Dear Members of the First Baptist Church Community,

We bring you blessings and good news from the Pulpit Search Committee (PSC). We hope this letter finds you well, safe and healthy.

Over the past months, the Lord our God has reaffirmed to us that He remains the head of this world. He is our strength and redeemer, our song and salvation. Our shout and praise for Him are shared in this letter to you. Hallelujah!

Beginning last summer 2019, FBCLG embarked on finding a new Senior Pastor following Pastor Soaries' notification to us that he intends to retire. The PSC was formed by you to prepare for this transition. Since that time, we have made great progress. We have identified a search firm, conducted focus groups, Town Halls, prayer meetings, and a congregational survey. We also have interviewed several candidates and begun preparing for elections. We are nearing the end of our search process. However, God has recently required all of us to pause due to the Coronavirus.

As believers, we know that God remains present in all that we do. This season provides us with the opportunity to focus on Him, His goodness, mercy and grace. It also requires us to focus on our health and our families while maintaining appropriate social distancing measures.

This letter intends to provide you with an update on the search. We were hoping that we would be very close to sharing with you the name of a final candidate for Senior Pastor. Due to the Coronavirus, the PSC has had to suspend activities that require face-to-face interaction including in-person interviews.

We have been collectively praying and fasting for guidance and direction during this period. We have been using this time to focus even more intently on Him and His will. We will continue to prepare this church for this transition; focusing on activities that are within our control and don't require in-person interaction. We will continue to plan and remain flexible to reengage in the process as soon as restrictions are lifted.

In the coming weeks, we will provide you additional updates either by letter or video as to the process of selecting a new Pastor. Our prayer is that you continue to remain focused on God and the teachings of Jesus.

Keep reading your Bible, pray, fast and learn from James as taught by Pastor. We pray that you call on the Holy Spirit to be by your side and to provide you comfort physically, spiritually and emotionally. We also ask for continued prayers for our Pastor and his family. God has provided us with an anointed shepherd that will lead us through this trying time.

Continue to love on your family, your friends, and neighbors. Pray for the recovery of all those who have the virus and for the protection of those who do not. Pray for our government leaders, medical personnel, first responders and the military, preparers of food, and the countless men and women who work at grocery, pharmacies and 'box' stores. Be strong my brothers and sisters.

Peace to all of you in the name of our savior Jesus the Christ.



Lawrence Hibbert, Deacon
Chairman Pulpit Search Committee



Ali Wilson, Trustee
Vice Chairman Pulpit Search Committee