

## The Process

This coming weekend, the members of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church are going to have the opportunity to meet two very special people. Beginning on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, our candidates for the roles of Pastor and Associate Minister of Education will be joining us in a time to get to know each other and to consider being a part of a future together. These two will represent only the third Pastor and third Associate Minister of Education in over 25 years. That is an amazing statement on how we as a church have conducted our selections and how we have worked with our called ministers for long and healthy spiritual growth. I strongly urge you to participate and pray for this coming event. We have been led by the Spirit to this moment, but it still requires our choice.

With that said, I feel it is important to remind you of the Pastoral Search Committee process and, more importantly, the official calling of a Pastor. Our by-laws spell out the procedures that we are to follow in this task.

*5.21 The Pastoral Search Committee shall have the duty to seek actively the guidance of the Holy Spirit in searching for a new Pastor. It shall organize itself administratively as it deems necessary and shall visit candidates in such numbers and at such times as it may determine.*

With that process in mind, a committee formed by you began to meet in August of 2015 with the task of being led to a pastoral candidate. We met throughout the year opening each meeting with a devotion to allow us to be led by the Holy Spirit followed by the business of the task. Through that process, it is clear to our committee that we were specifically guided to the candidate that we are bringing forth for the Pastor role. It is also clear to us that the process guided the church to the candidate our Personnel Committee is offering as Associate Minister of Education.

So now we come to the time of the calling. Our by-laws provide more information on this task:

*5.22 When the Pastoral Search Committee shall have unanimously decided upon one pastoral candidate, it shall notify Council and request a special business meeting of the Church for the purpose of presenting the name of the candidate.*

*5.22-1 The Committee shall give written notice to each resident member of the special business meeting and shall include adequate information regarding the candidate under consideration.*

*5.22-2 At least two (2) weeks notice of the special business meeting shall be given.*

*5.22-3 The Committee shall present only one name to the Church for its consideration.*

*5.22-4 No nomination except that of the Committee shall be made.*

*5.22-5 An affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present and voting shall be necessary for the nomination to be effected.*

*5.22-6 Should the pastoral candidate recommended by the Committee fail to receive the said three-fourths majority, the meeting shall be adjourned without debate, and the Committee shall be instructed to seek out another pastoral candidate.*



Lots of words but let me try to summarize it more directly:

- The Pastoral Search Committee has chosen a candidate and voted unanimously to bring that candidate before the church.
- We have notified Church Council and have scheduled a special called business meeting for Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup> immediately following our regular worship service (10:45 am).
- Notification via email and paper mail has been provided to the congregation about the called business meeting and only one name will be put forth for the role of Pastor at that time.

NOW....we need you! This is how you can be a part of this process:

- Opportunities to get to know both the Pastor candidate and the Associate Minister of Education will be provided on Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> (see invitation for details). Please set aside time to come to one of the opportunities so that you may make the best informed decision.
- There will be a last chance to meet the candidates during our normal Sunday School time at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The Worship Service on Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> will be led by our Pastor candidate and the candidate will be delivering the sermon during the service.
- After the service, we ask you to remain for a vote on the candidate. We must have a quorum of at least 75 members and the vote must be at least 75% affirmative.

More simply put....come and be a part of this very special weekend. Let the Spirit lead you, as it has led this committee, to make a decision on the future of our gathering of believers.

Darrin Bird  
Chair  
Pastoral Search Committee