



To the congregation of Fifth Avenue Baptist Church,

It is with great joy that I begin this letter to my church family to share a special moment in the life of our church. Over the last several months the Pastoral Search Committee has been engaged with not one but two potential leaders for our church. Now some of you familiar with our process of bringing a candidate for your decision will know that is not possible. We are to identify and nominate one and only one candidate for the Pastor role and we do not intend to do anything different from those directions. However, our search has led us not only to find a candidate for Pastor but to also offer to our Personnel Committee a candidate for the open position of Associate Minister of Education. So, today, you are receiving something unprecedented in our pastoral search history – a joint communication from the Pastoral Search Committee and the Personnel Committee.

Here is what each of the communications will be telling you. In the first communication, you will find the normal procedure that is required in our by-laws on the voting for a Pastor candidate. According to the by-laws, we are to notify the congregation of a special called business meeting with the intention of voting on the calling of a Pastor candidate who has been unanimously chosen by the Pastoral Search Committee. In the second communication, you will find a message from the Personnel Committee on their intention to hire a candidate for the role of Associate Minister of Education. We have the unique situation that the acceptance of that candidate is contingent on the calling of the Pastor candidate. Because of that, we have made the choice to communicate both of these candidates to you at the same time.

To be clear, the candidate for Associate Minister of Education has been chosen via a separate process. The candidate's credentials were reviewed. The candidate was interviewed and then voted upon by the Personnel Committee. Proper background information and references were checked and verified. The Search Committee provided the name but the Personnel Committee made the decision to offer the position to the candidate.

So now we come to a special moment. In the history of our church we have not had a moment such as this. It is extremely exciting to both the Pastoral Search Committee and the Personnel Committee that this special situation has developed. We support each of our candidates individually but also we support the unique opportunity of bringing both of them to our church family, together.

Please be in prayer in the next two weeks as our moment arrives.

Fifth Avenue Baptist Pastoral Search Committee