

AUGUST 2007 REPORT OF THE MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE TO THE CONGREGATION

The Search Committee was formed at the June meeting of the Official Board. Since that time we have had three meetings and appointed several subcommittees which have had numerous meetings. The subcommittees include: (a) Contact group for Senior Minister; (b) Contact group for Interim Minister; and (c) Senior Minister and Church Profile.

The committee has determined that there is a need to engage an Interim Minister in view of the number of months expected to identify and call the new Senior Minister. During this process, we anticipate that all current staff will continue to perform their current responsibilities in their existing positions. An Interim Minister will ensure that Pastoral care will not suffer as a result of the Senior Minister vacancy.

Having sought the wisdom and experience of other churches, our committee has unanimously decided that no Interim Minister will be considered as a candidate for the Senior Minister position. This policy is important for the Search Committee to maintain its neutrality towards all candidates during the search. Further, it will encourage member cohesiveness behind the Senior Minister once named.

The committee believes that we should seek the most qualified Pastor in the U.S. with a successful track record and background to lead this great church, believing that our best days are ahead of us. Among other attributes, the individual should:

- Have experienced the redeeming power, Grace and Love of God through Jesus Christ, and by faith rejoice in the Lord always with the assurance of abundant and eternal life;
- Have a passion for Jesus Christ and seek to serve Him by word and deed;
- Have a proven record of successful ministry in leading and growing congregations;
- Have reached a level of maturity in the Christian ministry evidencing effectiveness in preaching the Gospel, developing Church leaders, providing pastoral care to members of the congregation, and supervising Church staff members;
- Have excellent people skills that affirm others, be disciplined in time management, seek to grow spiritually as well as through continuing education; and
- Be someone who includes marriage and home as significant values in both personal life and ministry.

The committee is seeking recommendations from a number of sources, including Regional Ministers, former outstanding pastors, Presidents of colleges, and others. We are also asking for suggestions from members of our congregation. Any interested candidate (whether generated by the contact groups or submitted by the congregation) must submit a complete resumé and references. The committee will review these thoroughly. Afterwards, the committee will issue invitations to selected persons for interview and further consideration.

The committee thanks the congregation for its support, suggestions and, of course, the prayers that have been offered. We will continue to provide periodic reports of our progress.

J. Scot Kirkpatrick, Chair, Search Committee

Dan Johnson, Chair, Official Board