

Dear Church Family,

September 7, 2023

Thank you so much for your continuous prayers for us and how you have encouraged us through your words of affirmation and letting us know that you are praying with and for us. These mean a great deal to us, so thank you very much!

We are about half way through Phase 1: Discovery & Engagement, of our four-phase process in the search for our next senior pastor. Throughout the month of August and into these first two Sundays of September, we have provided opportunities for you, the congregation, to share with us through the Coffee Hours and being available for additional conversation after the worship service. This Sunday, September 10, we will wrap that time up, but we want you to know that we are still available for input. Please feel free to reach out to one of the Pulpit Search Committee (PSC) members or you may [email the PSC here](#). We will be wrapping up Phase 1 at our next PSC meeting on September 29, so please get in touch with us by Monday, September 25, so we will have time to fully review your comments before our meeting.

Many of you have already participated in this crucial step, and we are so thankful for you taking the time to pray and think about what the Lord was leading you to share with us. Thank you again!

During the rest of September, we will also be meeting with the Staff, Session, and Diaconate to receive their input. Please join us in praying for our time with these three groups, specifically for clarity in communication and understanding of our identity, values, priorities, and needs.

As you may recall, the purpose for Phase 1: Discovery & Engagement was to develop a clear picture of who we are as a church, including our values and priorities, so that we have a clear understanding of the identity and direction of the church to better attract (Phase 2) and assess (Phase 3) candidates. ([For a full review of the four phases, click here.](#)) We have been encouraged that you are helping us paint this picture, and that we will continue to be able to refine this picture of who we are with our meetings this month with the Staff, Session, and Diaconate.

Phase 1 will end with the PSC having a clear picture of who we are as this local body, and we will transition to using this picture to develop a job description and an application process.

Please be praying for us as a committee that we continue to listen well and understand both the content and the heart behind what you all share with us. Also pray for us as a committee for wisdom, humility, and unity.

Please be praying with us for you, our church family, that we all may be ready to patiently wait upon the Lord in seeking His will and that the Lord will continue to prepare our hearts to receive the man that He is calling to serve as the next senior pastor of this local flock of Christ's church.

Grace and Peace,
The Pulpit Search Committee

Jeff Andrews, Erin Brooke, Craig Jeffery, Drake Osterhage*, Jamie Pendergrass*, Jeff Poling, Lindsay Pope, Ben Samuels, Caleb Sprinkel, Grace Swartz, and Katy Trygstad
**alternates*