



# **PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

**FROM DECEMBER 3, 2017**

**First Meeting of the Pulpit Committee (also known as the Pastor Search Committee)  
Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri**

The first meeting of the Pulpit Committee was conducted on Monday, December 3, 2017. First, a point of clarification. Our church by-laws refer to a "Pulpit Committee," but quite often you see the term, "Pastor Search Committee." These terms have the same meaning and there should be no problem using them interchangeably.

We began our meeting by spending time together in the Word and in prayer. I then reviewed with the Committee the directions from the church for our Committee and for our church regarding the pastor search process. These directions were adopted at the last quarterly business meeting of the church on October 8, 2017. A copy of this document is attached for your reference.

Items 3 through 7 have been completed.

Pursuant to Item 1, "the day to day operations of the ministry of Second Baptist Church shall continue under the supervision and direction of the administrative pastor, Jay Hughes."

Item 2 states that, "Upon the retirement of the Pastor, the pulpit shall be filled until the end of February 2018 as already planned on the church calendar."

Item 8 provides that, "The Pulpit Committee shall be responsible for filling the pulpit beginning in the month of March 2018 and ending when the church votes to call a new pastor."

Item 9 states: "The Pulpit Committee shall be responsible to recommend to the church whether or not an interim pastor should be called, and if an interim pastor is recommended, the Pulpit Committee shall recommend an interim pastor to the church after the church has had an opportunity to hear the recommended interim pastor preach on at least two different dates at Sunday morning services."

This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the reporting requirements set forth in Item 10.

The matter of how to go about filling the pulpit after March 1, 2018 was taken up. Following extensive discussion, a motion was made and seconded that the Committee seek an outside interim pastor who, if approved by the church, would begin preaching both morning and evening services on Sundays beginning as soon as possible after March 1. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the committee. It was the consensus of the Committee that a report should be provided to the Church to set forth the rationale which went into this decision.

We have received a number of recommendations of various individuals who might be considered as candidates to become our next pastor. It is important for you to know that no potential candidate for pastor has been excluded or included by the Committee.

While our opinions vary, God is not divided on this matter and knows already the individual He has chosen to lead Second as our next pastor. Our prayer is that we all will seek God, not the man.

We desire a clear word from the Lord for our Committee and for our Church regarding His choice. Once we know His will, our prayer is that our church would unify around our next pastor.

The sense of the Committee is that we should devote the initial phase of our search to prayer and fasting. We call on the Church to join us in praying that God would do a work of cleansing, healing, and renewal in our fellowship. We have requested time at the beginning of the new year for the committee to listen to the concerns of the church and after carefully listening, take these matters to the throne of grace. We are pleased to know that God put it on the heart of our teaching pastor to preach on prayer and fasting beginning in January. We pray a spirit of renewal will continue through the interim period.

Our decision to seek an outside interim pastor is based on the following considerations:

1. While Second is blessed with a number of strong, mature Christians, we can all do better with our walk with the Lord and our relationships with others. An interim time and interim pastor can and should bring about cleansing, healing and renewal- both spiritually and relationally. We believe this can best be accomplished by calling an outside interim pastor.
2. An external interim pastor can and should bring a freshness to our church family through teaching and preaching freely and openly through God's Word. This will allow our church family to relax, hear from God individually, and not feel there is an agenda.
3. An external interim pastor allows the church staff and pastors to continue serving in the ministries, roles and duties which they were called to our church to do.
4. An external interim pastor can bring an objective and impartial perspective regarding the strengths and weaknesses of our church.
5. An external interim pastor can lead our church to allow the Lord to use this time to spiritually prepare the heart of our church for what is ahead in a way beneficial to the body of Christ and our next pastor.
6. We cannot be in a rush and must resist becoming restless as a church family. God will reveal His choice to us, but it may take longer than any of us hope. Prayerfully, an interim pastor will grant us the gift of time that should help us as we progress thoroughly and smoothly through the process of seeking God's will.
7. An interim pastor provides us with stability during this time of transition. The Committee is charged with responsibility to fill the pulpit after March 1, 2018 and our preference is to maintain continuity in the pulpit and not bring in a rotating slate of speakers.
8. According to Dr. Greg Frizzell, a recognized authority on the pastor search process and a man of great spiritual understanding:
9. "It is seldom wise to let someone in running for the position serve as the interim pastor. While there may be exceptions, this very often builds camps within the church. It is usually important to get an interim who is not a candidate. You also need an interim who is not going to suddenly decide he would be a candidate after a few weeks of being interim. For balance, let me say there are a few cases where an interim later sensed God's direction and it worked out well. But in general, it is unwise to call an interim who is also a prospect." ***Seeking God to Seek a Pastor, page 19.***

We are asking the church family to continue to use the prayer guide found inside the front cover of the Pastor Search Committee Candidates brochure. We also ask your prayers for our Committee in the following matters:

1. That the search committee would continue to trust God to give them what is needed to deal with every issue which comes before them. Philippians 4: 19
2. That God would grant divine wisdom to the search committee in recommending an interim pastor to the church. James 1 :5
3. That every step of the search committee would be a step of faith. Hebrews 11 :6
4. That God would protect us from the Evil One. I Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7-8; and I John 4:4
5. That God would use the committee and everyone in the church family to fulfill His purposes for Second Baptist Church. Psalm 138:8

Pray also for our next regularly scheduled meeting in early January where agenda items will include: Report on Prayer Concerns from the Church; Report on Interim Pastor Search; Operating Procedures; and Ethical Standards.

We are grateful for our pastors, staff, deacons, teachers, other leaders, and the entire church family! May God continue to bless you and our church family as we seek His favor, guidance and direction in these days. May you be filled this Holy season with the comfort and joy we find in Christ!

Blessings always,

Bob Ingold  
Chairman, Pulpit Committee

Members

Dan Hedrick  
Kristy McCall  
Brad Thomas  
Ginny Haymes

Alternate Members

Chris Stange  
Robin Housley  
Matt Morrow  
Joan Petty

**Second Baptist Church Deacons  
Proposed Recommendations from Deacons to the Church  
for  
Consideration at the Quarterly Business Meeting on October 8, 2017**

1. Upon the retirement of Pastor John Marshall, the day to day operations of the ministry of Second Baptist Church shall continue under the supervision and direction of the administrative pastor, Jay Hughes.
2. Upon the retirement of the Pastor, the pulpit shall be filled until the end of February 2018 as already planned on the church calendar.
3. Members of the church are encouraged to suggest Pulpit Committee members to the chairman of deacons by October 22.
4. During the period of October 22 to October 29, the chairman of deacons will narrow the field to no more than thirty nominees and by October 29 will submit those nominees to the personnel committee, deacon officers, and executive staff for further review to ensure those nominated are above reproach and well qualified to serve.
5. The chairman of the personnel committee will report the results of the review of candidates to the chairman of deacons by November 5.
6. The chairman of deacons shall submit names of four persons and four alternates as nominees to serve on the Pulpit Committee to the church for prayerful consideration at a Special Called Business Meeting on November 19. Each primary nominee shall have an assigned alternate. Alternates will not have voting privileges unless called upon to fill a vacancy.
7. The church shall then vote to approve or disapprove nominees for the Pulpit Committee at a Special Called Business Meeting on December 3.
8. The Pulpit Committee shall be responsible for filling the pulpit beginning in the month of March 2018 and ending when the church votes to call a new pastor.
9. The Pulpit Committee shall be responsible to recommend to the church whether or not an interim pastor should be called, and if an interim pastor is recommended, the Pulpit Committee shall recommend an interim pastor to the church after the church has had an opportunity to hear the recommended interim pastor preach on at least two different dates at Sunday morning services.
10. The Chairman of the Pulpit Committee shall submit a brief report on the activities and progress of the committee at least once a month at the Sunday morning services and on the church website beginning in December 2017.