



SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF JULY 30, 2019 MEETING

Present: David Rix (chair), Jason Abraham, Jim Bruce, Linda Herman, Richard Ibekwe, Leslie Liu, and Margaret Sloat.

1. The meeting began at 7:00 pm with prayer for the church and the committee — David.

2. Approval of July 15 and July 23 Minutes — David

Minutes for the Meeting of July 15 were presented and approved as distributed to the Committee. Minutes for the Meeting of July 23 were presented and approved with minor changes. The final Minutes for July 23 were distributed to the committee on July 31, 2019.

3. Sermon Evaluation Criteria — Committee

At an earlier meeting of the Committee, we agreed that since preaching is of such preeminent importance at Park Street, we would first screen applicants on their preaching. Prior to this meeting, David asked each committee member to come prepared to share a set of sermon evaluation criteria that might be used in such an evaluation. These criteria and the discussion that occurred focused on three areas:

- a. **Content** — as indicated by sound doctrine (Orthodox, Evangelical and Reformed); exegetical, topical or systematic theology (or a combination thereof) approach; references to other Scripture, Old and New Testaments; reference to the three persons of the Trinity; context to provide the author's intent; the big idea that ties smaller ideas together; references, Hebrew or Greek or church history; cultural references; story, example, analogy or quotes; personal reference, self-identification as a fellow human or sinner; appeal to non-Christians; appeal to youth; speaks to both mind and heart (you get a "nugget").
- b. **Delivery/style** — as in being thoughtful, engaging ("think and laugh"), passionate, authentic; clarity, conciseness; includes a story, example, analogy, quotes; personal reference, identify as a fellow human or sinner; appeals to non-Christians; appeals to youth; visual effects.
- c. **Application** — stated application to daily life; clear explanation of the process to apply concept to daily life; how much time is spent on talking about application.

Discussion of these criteria and how they will be utilized in evaluating applicants will continue at next week's meeting.

4. Process for Reviewing Applicant Sermons — Committee

The Committee tentatively agreed on a process whereby we would each listen to the same three sermons from an applicant, evaluate each sermon using the criteria outlined in the July 30th discussion (above), and then discuss the findings at the Committee's next meeting. In preparation to begin this review, each member of the committee was assigned to listen to sermons preached by a specific applicant and select three of those sermons for all members of the Committee to subsequently listen to and evaluate in the coming weeks. (Two members of the committee were assigned to review sermons from two applicants.)

This process should permit the committee to complete this review of sermons for all applicants now under consideration by mid-September. (More applicants may be added to those whose sermons are being evaluated as Rich Kidd continues to review the applications he has received.)

5. Update on Prayer — David

David reported that the prayer calendar is now available on the [web](#) and will be promoted and demonstrated at the August 2nd prayer meeting. He emphasized that we run a real risk of choosing the wrong person if we don't pray. He said that we will select someone in our own strength if there is no prayer. But, if there is prayer, God will direct us to the right person. David also indicated that he will ask the Elder at each morning service and Michael Balboni for the evening service, to call attention to the Prayer Calendar, urging congregants who have not yet committed to pray for the Committee to do so.

6. Meeting Review — Linda.

- Update minutes for July 23 meeting — Jim.
- Consolidate input from the meeting into a Candidate Preaching Scorecard — Leslie.
- Identify three sermons delivered by your assigned applicant(s) — All.
- Urge everyone to make a commitment on the Prayer Calendar — All.
- Ask Elders and Michael to make announcements about the Prayer Calendar — David.
- Write Elders asking them to sign up on the Prayer Calendar — David.
- Arrange for computer at Information Center to be used to sign up for Prayer Calendar — Jason

7. Other Matters

- Consensus that there should be a bulletin insert identifying the Committee Members with their pictures. Something like this was distributed to the Leadership Council before their June 19th meeting.
- Urge that the Senior Pastor search process continue to be an item for prayer in each Sunday's Congregational Prayer.
- We will next meet on August 6, 2019 at 7:00 pm at Jim's home in Lexington. The principal item on the agenda will be a continued discussion of the criteria the committee will use in reviewing applicant sermons and the details for our review process. Also, each committee member will identify the three sermons preached by her or his assigned applicant(s) that they selected for all the committee members to review. Additionally, we will also review the minutes for the committee's meeting on July 30.

8. Richard closed our meeting with prayer at 9:40 pm.