



SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2020 MEETING

Present: David Rix (chair), Jason Abraham, Jim Bruce, Linda Herman, Richard Ibekwe, Leslie Liu, Margaret Sloat, and the candidate. The candidate's wife joined the meeting just prior to lunch.

1. **The Committee's meeting began at 9:55 a.m. with Linda reading a prayer followed by David praying for our meeting.**
2. **Discussion with the candidate. Major topics discussed included:**
 - Park Street Church's Covenant of Faith and Government, and its Statement of Faith. The candidate affirmed them without reservation.
 - The Lord's Prayer. The candidate prefers the traditional wording of the prayer as it brings unity with the historic church.
 - Preaching: Looks forward to having more time to focus on preaching. For him, "preaching is to light a fire."
 - His personal statement of faith and positions on theological issues.
 - His call to Park Street Church.
 - His marriage and family.
 - His approach to management and leadership in the church. How he would begin to lead once at Park Street Church. How he would work with difficult people.
 - How he visualized the period of transition in his and his family's life from his present church to Park Street Church.
 - How he would approach personnel issues.
 - The church's Missions program and the new Minister for City Engagement. He is anxious to learn and to visit missionaries.
 - Engagement with social media, both personally and use by the church's ministries.
 - Bridging the divide between younger and older generations, engaging college students.
 - High level concerns were he to transition to Park Street Church from his current pastorate. How to be effective in a different environment without sacrificing his personal practices of renewal? Casting a clear vision that is about Jesus and His glory. Apprehension about the congregation's willingness to accept change.
 - Personal priorities – beyond preaching, his priorities would be prayer, leading the congregation's leaders, shepherding, and engaging the culture and the community.
3. **The candidate's questions.**
 - What are the current tensions in the congregation?

- Is there a clear vision for discipling children and youth?
- What are the committee's 6, 12, and 24 month markers indicating to him that coming to Park Street Church was the right choice? Sample answers included: People are intentionally talking to those they don't know; there is a clear focus on the "big" things we need to do for Jesus, young people come and there is community that draws them back; and the church is more prayerful.

4. The decision.

- During a break when the candidate and his wife and the committee took short separate walks, the committee voted and unanimously agreed to recommend to the Board of Elders that the candidate be called to be the 16th Senior Minister of Park Street Church. After we voted, we sang the Doxology. Once we returned to the place where we had been meeting, we informed the candidate and his wife and shared a moment of silence while the decision "sank-in." The candidate remarked that "This was a holy moment."

5. Discussion of a possible timeline and logistics.

- The Committee and the candidate discussed the next steps in the process including confirmation by the Board of Elders and the Leadership Council and election by the congregation.

6. The meeting adjourned after prayer at 7:00 p.m.