

Congregational Meeting Election of Pastoral Selection Committee

Introduction

As Pastor Ross mentioned in his most recent email the Senior Pastor selection process is underway. Mark down on your calendars November 20th. I will tell you more about that date in a moment, but first I would like to introduce the men standing with me:

Dr. Paul Ballantyne – 19 years
Leo S. Harper-18 years
John Napier – 16 years
David Hardesty
Gary Larson
Brad Fallentine, Sec/Treasurer
Terry Felber - Out of Town

Physicists say that nature abhors a vacuum. And so do congregations that do not know what is going on. Therefore, it is important that we give you a lot of detail regarding the selection process. I will explain the senior pastor selection process according to our Bylaws; provide specifics about the requirements for church membership; and then the order of service for Monday – November 20th

The Process

The Bylaws govern the process for selecting a new Senior Pastor. In accordance with the Bylaws, I, Brad Fallentine, the Secretary/Treasurer of New Life Church, am officially calling a congregational meeting of the membership of New Life Church for Monday, November 20, 2006 at 7 PM right here in the Living Room.

The purpose of the meeting is for the membership to elect the Pastoral Selection Committee. The Pastoral Selection Committee is the group of people with the responsibility to recommend a new Senior Pastor as soon as an acceptable candidate is available. Ultimately, the membership of New Life Church will vote to approve the new Senior Pastor.

The Bylaws provide that the Pastoral Selection Committee will consist of three men and three women from the general membership and the three most senior full-time pastoral staff members. The three most senior full-time pastoral staff members are Ross Parsley, Lance Coles and Brian Newberg. If any one of these three staff members becomes a candidate for the Senior Pastor position, the next most senior pastoral staff member will serve on this committee.

Each member will have the opportunity to cast a vote for one man and one woman from the membership. The three men and women with the greatest number of votes will be invited to join the committee. Should any decline, the man or women with the next highest number of votes will be selected. The three men and three women must be members. Members include staff, elders, trustees, small group leaders and general members. You may vote for yourself. None of the members of the committee may be related.

The Ballots will be tallied within 48 hours.

Final results will be communicated to the entire church via email, web site and announced in 11/26 services. During both of the morning services, the Elders of New Life Church will commission the newly elected Pastoral Selection Committee.

The new committee will convene promptly and begin the selection process as provided in the Bylaws. The committee is to recommend a new Senior Pastor as soon as an acceptable candidate is available. That person must be a licensed or ordained minister of the Gospel, and he must be approved by three of the four members of the Board of Overseers before being presented to the church. Once the committee recommends a Senior Pastoral candidate, that person may speak to the church in every service for 3 weeks, after which time a meeting of the membership shall be publicly called on a Monday night, chaired by the Secretary/Treasurer or by a member of the Board of Trustees selected by that Board. At that meeting church members shall vote by secret ballot either to accept or to reject the pastoral candidate. Trustees and their wives are to count the ballots. A minimum two-thirds (2/3) vote of those attending the meeting is required to elect the next Senior Pastor. If there is not a two-thirds (2/3) majority in favor of the candidate, the Pastoral Selection Committee shall seek another candidate.

Specifics

In order to participate in the meeting you must be a member. The Bylaws provide that any person with a giving statement from 2005 will be admitted to the meeting. Upon presenting your 2005 giving statement proving membership, you will be given one ballot for each name on your 2005 giving statement. A 2005 giving statement presented from a Business is entitled to one ballot.

If you have lost your 2005 giving statement, then we ask that you bring a drivers license or other valid form of identification and we will verify that you gave to the church in 2005. Much the same process you experienced when voting last Tuesday. However, for efficiency, we strongly encourage you to locate your 2005 giving statement. Please do not contact the accounting office.

If you did not give to the church during 2005, you are not eligible to vote.

Order of Service for Monday, November 20th

- Instructions given on voting
- Filling out the ballots during worship music
- Meeting adjournment will be when the last ballot is placed in one the ballot boxes as the congregation exits the Living room

Summary

Obviously, this is a very critical time in the history of New Life Church and the selection of the Senior Pastor is very important. So we ask that in the days before the meeting on November 20 that each of you take time to prayerfully consider who you would like to nominate to serve on the Pastoral Selection Committee.

We need to heed the caution of our By-Laws – Don't rush or be sidetracked by the process. The goal is to select God's man as the senior pastor.

We must as individuals and corporately go through the grieving process for the loss of our dear pastor. Experts say there are five classic phases we must go through: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. It is extremely important that we have closure – saying Good-bye prior to welcoming our new senior pastor. Then we must, as the apostle Paul tells us in Philippians 3:13 lay aside past things so we can focus our attention and efforts on pressing forward to what is ahead. He then encourages us to do so too as part of our spiritual maturing. We are all being challenged to TRUST GOD for our next Senior Pastor.