

Good morning!

The Lead Pastor Search Team is made up of Amy Bankston, Renee Edwards, Caleb Johnson, Don King, Susan Lear, Rob Ramseyer and Matt Sondergard, and while you might not know everyone individually, we are betting you'll be as excited as we are to know this group represents a range of people in their 20s to 70s, all of whom have attended this church for many, many years. In lots of ways, we are much like you! We're people who love this church. We are concerned for the challenges that face us. Each of us has our own personal hopes and dreams for our church, but more than anything, we are aligned in a desire for God to have His way here. One thing we are experiencing--and we enthusiastically invite you to join us in learning--is that as we pray every day for our church and our new pastor, God gives hope. If you haven't picked one up yet, there are copies of the 40-day Prayer Guide in the kiosks outside the sanctuary. Grab one and experience this for yourself!

One of the first jobs assigned to our team was to write a thorough description of our church and create a job description for our lead pastor. All of our church history, the makeup of our congregation, our involvement in the community and the world, our strengths and weaknesses, and our hopes and dreams for the future were detailed for potential applicants. Likewise, we detailed in the job description the qualities and character, attributes and qualifications we are seeking in our lead pastor. The perspectives of the entire team were represented in these two documents, and the process really brought us together and created friendships that remind us exactly what the church is and how God gives us the gift of community as we serve Him. Please take some time and visit our Eastminster website where you can find these documents and read for yourself.

We have been meeting almost weekly since the beginning of March to pray and complete all of the necessary paperwork, which is on file now with the denomination. At the EPC General Assembly this past June, Don and Susan had the opportunity to share the openings for each of our two pastor positions complete with all of our church information. To date, our team has received several pastor applications and are reviewing them. We have heard suggestions from many of you and are continuing to prayerfully discern God's will for our congregation.

One very important way for each of you to participate with us in the search for our next pastor is to come and pray with us once a month in the chapel. Feel free to bring your kids. Come on your lunch break. Families, join us before or after dinner. Teenagers and seniors, grab a friend and come in a group! We are all the church, and we all turn our eyes together to the One who will provide as we gather to seek Him, united in prayer. If you haven't been yet, please make a point to join us this Thursday, August 10th, at Noon or 7 PM in the chapel. We begin promptly at Noon and 7 PM and are led in guided prayer for a half hour.

While you may not be on the pastoral search committee, we know and sense that you are WITH us, and we thank you for trusting us, praying for us, and encouraging us. Together, we are asking God to prepare us to receive God's person to lead us into the future for His glory.