



**MYERS PARK
BAPTIST
CHURCH**

**A faith community
on a journey seeking
a welcoming, loving,
and just world.**

Senior Minister Search Update

Your Senior Minister Search Committee is working hard. We are just about ready to announce our search publicly and begin receiving resumes. It is hard for me to convey how much preparation is necessary to do this job right. We are balancing the need for a timely launch with the need for a quality launch and search. We feel our best efforts will attract the best candidates. Watch our website for the announcement for the upcoming public announcement.

Our biggest milestone since our last update was the one we achieved with you via our Congregational Survey and follow-up meeting on April 12. Over 100 people attended the meeting at which our team presented and discussed the results. Our goal was to gain more insight into your survey answers. The information below summarizes what we learned.

The first part of the survey dealt with church member demographics. We learned we are an aging church. 75% of us are over 65 and 40% are over 75. This means we need a large number of new members in the coming years just to survive.

Below is a recap of the answers to the three questions that were directed at the areas of church life we need to focus on, the tasks that a new Sr. Minister will need to prioritize, and the skills and qualities that will be needed by our new Sr. Minister. Here are the top four answers for each of these questions:

Aligning our Efforts and Resources to our Mission Statement

1. Families with children and youth
2. Worship Service
3. Community Life and Congregational Care
4. New member recruitment

Task Priorities for new Sr. Minister

1. Prepare and preach inspiring sermons
2. Build a successful high-functioning staff team
3. Work collaboratively with staff in planning and leading meaningful worship
4. Support and enhance church programming for children and youth

New Sr. Minister Qualities

1. Preaching style captivates and engages worshipers
2. Reveals the emotional stability and courage to make wise, calm decisions
3. Possesses effective conflict resolution skills
4. Skilled in community building

Clearly, our current membership values good preaching and meaningful worship. Not much new there! But we also recognize the need to address areas of the church that have been neglected in recent years; namely community life, congregational care, and the need to attract new members - especially young families. The latter is critical as our current demographics dictate that we have to grow.

At our tables we discussed these results in light of our need to attract new members. Here are a few things we heard you say:

A new Sr. Minister must have balance and not focus on just a few things.

He/she needs emotional stability and demonstrates personal care for congregants.

Each of us has to be willing to compromise on some of the things we want for some of the things we need (to attract new members). Creativity and new ideas will be needed.

We older folks may not know what prospective younger members want. We need to hire a new Sr. Minister who does.

Look to our past for things that might work well today. (e.g. having a tighter link between our Through The Week School and the church as we once did.)

Do not neglect social justice as we adjust our focus to other areas.

Focus on doing church well, and growth will follow.

Our Search Committee now has a much better feel for the type of Sr. Minister we both want and need. We will do our best to discern the call to the right person. In the meantime, keep the church in your prayers and feel free to contact any member of the committee with additional thoughts or ideas. It is an honor for each of us that you have entrusted us with this important task.

