**Transition Update: Pastor Search Process**

September 23, 2020

After a careful search, we voted Monday night to engage Will Heath of Sherpa ([planningsuccession.com](http://planningsuccession.com/)) to help us in the process as we move forward in earnest. He will help us clarify "who are we as a church *today”*since the Lord has shaped and grown us as a congregation over the years. That informs the search committee's process, creating a clear message and profile for candidates to consider.

Phase 1 with Sherpa will involve an initial in-person visit in October to begin the process, one in November, and then a final one in January. These meetings will involve the Session, and will also actively seek input from the broader membership of the church. We will continue to update everyone as we get guidance from Will.

After Sherpa’s Phase 1 we will look to form a search committee. That step is critical as the members must be a trusted subset of the broader congregation. We see this happening in early 2021. Once the committee is formed, it will take some time for them to grow in prayer, unity, and trust, and then to establish their search processes. Search processes often take 6 months or longer after a committee is formed before they present the candidate they recommend.

After a pastor is called and accepts the call, Sherpa offers their Phase 2 to help implement the Phase 1 plan. This is done in order to have the new Senior Pastor work *with* the congregation so it is a collective effort and everyone is moving the same direction at the same point in time.

We believe this will help bring unity and clarity to the body as we move into a new chapter in the life of Uptown.

***Please pray for the Lord to do His work in this, and that we could see clearly what He is doing in our midst!***

