



PRAYERS FOR THE PASTORAL SEARCH

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Biblical principles and practices to guide your search"
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Pray for the Pastoral Search Committee

1. *Pray for the people being nominated.*

Pray that they would exercise wisdom. Pray that they will understand and accept the commitment involved. Pray for grace for those nominated, but not elected.

2. *Pray for patience.*

Pray that the group would wait for God's timing.

3. *Pray that our search committee will have the mind of Christ and agree.*

Much of the process is subjective. Personal opinions and preferences are involved. Differences can divide. Ask that they would heed the Apostle Paul's advice for unity, having the humble attitude of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:1–12, especially verse 5). It is so easy for us consciously — or more often, unconsciously — to bring our own agendas into church business.

4. *Pray for wisdom to choose the right person.*

Pray that the pastoral search committee will renew their minds in the Bible so that they can have Word-centered wisdom (Romans 12:1–2).

5. *Pray for discipline for our search committee and other church leaders.*

The search process will require a great deal of follow-through on the parts of individuals. It will also require that they do not digress from the agenda or retrace decisions they have already made. Pray for unity and agreement between the Session and the Pastoral Search Committee.

Pray for Your Next Pastor

- 6. *Pray that God would increase his passion for preaching the Word of God.***
- 7. *Pray that God would give him a love for our church and the strength to leave his current position* (if the candidate senses that is God's direction).**
- 8. *Pray that your next pastor would begin new relationships at your church in the right way, even during the search process.***
- 9. *Pray that God would prepare your future pastor to shepherd your flock more effectively through the trials and blessings he has faced or currently faces.***
- 10. *Pray for your next pastor's wife and family.***

Of course, he may be single or married. He may have children or not. God knows all that. Pray that God, who knows each detail about each member of your pastor's household, would give the members of his family strength as they consider leaving their current setting and going to a different church, or beginning pastoral ministry for the first time.

Pray for the People in Your Church

- 11. *Pray for patience.***

The Pastoral Search process can go on longer than expected. It is hard for people to do the work of searching. It is also difficult for those in the congregation who must wait without knowing exactly what is going on.

- 12. *Pray that our people would trust the leadership and uphold both the Session and the Pastoral Search Committee in prayer throughout the process.***

- 13. *Pray that our people would learn to place a high priority on Biblical Preaching.***

It is easy to gravitate toward personality, programs, pet doctrines, personal desires, or a particular "ideal" time in the past, etc.

- 14. *Pray that, above all, the congregation would call a pastor who will proclaim the Word without apology.***

- 15. *Pray that our people would not react to our previous pastor.***

Some churches struggle with wanting a pastor who is like their old one (they may have had a good experience). Other churches want someone who is just the opposite. No one is completely like or unlike the previous pastor — let him be himself!