



*But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him.
Jeremiah 17:7 (NIV)*

March 2018 Update on Pastoral Search Process

The Elder Board has completed the initial planning/ behind the scenes phase of the pastoral search process. Some of the important decisions we have been engaged in are: Do we want to partner with an outside Pastoral Search firm? And, if yes, which one?

Before deciding on partnering with a search firm, the Elders met with Ken Snyder – Missionary Church Central Region Director to ensure they were acting in accordance with the recommendations and expectations of the denomination. The Elders received assurance and encouragement from Ken and are comfortable that the process and plans moving forward are supported by the denomination.

To determine the search firm we should work with, the Elders conducted interviews with two of the best national Pastoral Search firms, Vanderbloemen and Slingshot. We spoke directly with the managers who would interface with us as well as with references who have used their services. We felt both organizations were well equipped to address our needs. In the end, we found the business style of Slingshot to be more in line with our expectations; they were easier to communicate with and seemed more willing to address our concerns or questions promptly, and so they were our clear choice.

Now that we have engaged the services of an outside search firm, we have some milestones that we will be working towards:

- The first of these milestone events is the selection of the search committee. The committee will consist of two elders and five to seven members of the congregation, in alignment with the Village Church of Gurnee bylaws. The Elders are asking the congregation to help in this process by submitting recommendations for members of the congregation to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee. The recommendation form is attached to this email. It is also available by download from the church website (vcgurnee.org) and in paper form at the church office.

Upon completion, please return the completed recommendation form to the Information Center in the church lobby next Sunday morning, or to the church office during regular business hours, or email it to the Elders at elders1@vcgurnee.org. All completed forms must be submitted by Tuesday, March 27.

Regarding filling out the forms, we are asking for your name, the name of the person you are recommending and most importantly why you think they would be a good member for the committee. In addition you can add a brief description of how their faith walk demonstrates growing, connecting, serving and reaching. The Elders will use these recommendations to guide them in filling out the search committee positions.

- The second milestone event is an on-site visit by Slingshot at Village Church of Gurnee in April, to conduct an assessment of the church. The visit is scheduled for April 18-19. This visit includes two full days of meetings with various groups within the church to assess who we are as a church, our strengths/our needs, our needs in a senior pastor and so on. This information will be used for

creating job description and other materials to support the national search for our next senior pastor. Slingshot will work together with the search committee to develop and finalize these documents. This process will run about 2-3 months.

- A third milestone event will be the Congregational survey – Slingshot will help us put together a congregational survey questionnaire after the April visit. They would like the survey to take place about two months after the site visit – that is, approximately the June timeframe. The survey will be important for confirming the findings from the initial assessment and will help answer any open questions.

As important as these tasks are, we want to remain focused on our goal to conduct this search process under the leadership of the Lord Jesus Christ. And as such our most important responsibility is to regularly pray for this process. We want to pray intentionally as individuals, as elders, as leaders in the church, as a search committee and as a congregation. As for congregational prayer, we will have our second Call to Prayer evening on Sunday, April 15, just prior to Slingshot's visit. We will focus our prayer that evening on our work with Slingshot and the April 18-19 visit. The elders will also be available to address questions you may have after the prayer time.

During this time leading up to the April visit, please be praying daily for this process, for the people involved, for Slingshot as they prepare for their time here. Pray also for the Search Committee selection process – that we as a church body are attentive to the Lord's leading. Let's continue to give thanks for the 35 years of Village Church ministry under Pastor Todd's leadership. Let us thank God for our rich history as we wait expectantly for His plans to be revealed for our future

In His service,

The Elders of Village Church of Gurnee