

## **I. Introductions**

- a. We are honored to be serving our Lord as part of the Lead Pastor Search Committee with other dedicated members of VILLAGE CHURCH OF GURNEE family and in partnership with the Elders of VILLAGE CHURCH.
- b. As promised, we are providing a regular update to you about the status of the search to date and what is coming up in the search process.

## **II. Work to Date**

- a. To recap the previous updates, the Elder Board went to work once Todd provided notice that he would be retiring in the Summer of 2019. The Elder Board retained the services of a search partner called Slingshot that specializes in pastoral searches and formed the Lead Pastor Search Committee.
- b. In the Spring, Slingshot visited VILLAGE, learned about the ministries here, talked with senior leaders, met with the Search Committee, and held a focus group. This visit really allowed Slingshot to understand the unique opportunities for ministry that exist at VILLAGE.
- c. Following Slingshot's visit, the Search Committee commenced meeting weekly on Monday nights for at least 2 hours. As part of that work, the Search Committee developed a full church profile and an updated position description for the Lead Pastor that Slingshot can use to seek potential candidates.
- d. Additionally, through the all-church survey, individual conversations, and a recent Q&A session, you, the people of VILLAGE, have provided your input into the qualities the Search Committee should prioritize in looking for the new Lead Pastor. Your input has been tremendously helpful in crystalizing some of our key areas of focus.
- e. Your input, the Search Committee's discernment, and Slingshot's knowledge from their visit have allowed Slingshot to review over 100 candidates on VILLAGE's behalf. Slingshot proactively works with candidates that have submitted their names for consideration, as well as candidates known to Slingshot that have not officially applied for the position.
- f. Nearly 10 candidates have been forwarded to the Search Committee for review. As a Committee, we have conducted numerous phone interviews with potential candidates and will be continuing to do so until Search Committee feels that the Holy Spirit has led us to the candidate that he feels is appropriate for the Leader Pastor position here at Village.

## **III. What's Next**

- a. Role of the Search Committee – The Search Committee will continue to prayerfully and tirelessly labor in seeking the God-ordained candidate that will be the next Lead Pastor at VILLAGE. We will continue to conduct interviews with potential candidates referred to us by Slingshot. We will continue to listen to the voice of the people of VILLAGE. The Search Committee will eventually recommend candidates to the Elder Board for a final interview. The Search Committee is also proactively contacting organizations like Trinity and Moody to solicit feedback on potential candidates.

- b. Role of the Elder Board – The Elder Board will prayerfully vet the final candidates to determine the best candidate for VILLAGE CHURCH OF GURNEE. That candidate will likely be presented to the church in a time of fellowship and teaching prior to being subject to a membership vote.
- c. Role of the Congregation – As a congregation, the Search Committee requests that you continue to pray for VILLAGE, pray for the process, pray for the Search Committee, pray for Pastor Todd & Marti, pray for the staff during this transition time, and pray that the Pastor who God has already chosen for VILLAGE will be made known to the Search Committee. In addition, the Search Committee has already welcomed your feedback and continues to listen to your prayerful words regarding potential candidates. The Search Committee also humbly requests your fervent prayer on Monday nights beginning at 6:30pm. Each Monday the church conference room is filled with prayer, robust discussion, and interviews. Your intercessory prayer in that moment can be felt by the committee and potential candidates. Lastly, every member of VILLAGE CHURCH will be voting on the final candidate when the time comes and we welcome your engagement in that process.
- d. Role of Everyone – Perhaps the most important thing we all must consider is a spirit of unity throughout the church during this time of transition. These factors are critically important:
  - i. Patience for God’s Timing – Colossians 3:12 – Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.
  - ii. Perseverance – Galatians 6:9 – Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Hebrews 12:1 – Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

#### **IV. Conclusion**

- a. The Search Committee continues to work with a balance of patience and urgency. We work with an expectation that God will provide. We work with recognition of the task ahead of us. We take the process seriously and anxiously await God’s plan to manifest itself in the process. Please reach out to us or any of the members of the Search Committee if you have any questions, comments, or feedback. Thank you for your involvement in this important process.