

An update from the search committee

- We are a committee of 12 with diverse backgrounds, interests and gifts.
- We are excited about what God has planned for our church and future leadership
- As a complete team we have been meeting regularly for 9 months.
- To date we have completed and approved the church profile, pastor profile and history of our church, titled "God's Man for God's church in God's city".
- Our committee is divided into 3 teams of 4 people each and to date we have reviewed a total of 155 applications with candidates from 28 states and 7 foreign nations.
- We have received applications from denominational and independent churches and we will continue to confer with recognized leaders in the Christian faith as we continue our search for the leader God has chosen.
- We are working diligently, using discernment and have thoroughly reviewed the resumes, sermons and cd's of potential candidates. While time consuming, this insures we are intimate with the details,
- We are eager to find out what God has in store, mindful that this will happen in HIS time.
- A number of the candidates moving forward are sensitive of our culture and values and excited about leading our church.

The search process makes two things of us...both managers and entrepreneurs. In the sense of tending a process that has been given to us, we are managers. Yet we must also be entrepreneurs, in the sense of creating business of our own, through networking with evangelical personalities

On the more entrepreneurial side, we have been more proactive and have made outside calls on strategic Christian leadership figures seeking their advice, or have been approached by them with specific recommendations. With the candidates from these sources we have tried to begin a more direct conversation. Sometimes we encounter reluctance from denominational candidates over the fact that we are independent, plus there is also the highly sensitive issue of their anonymity.

One of our search committee members bought us each a copy of Mark Dever's book, The Healthy Church. Bruce Bickel has begun teaching from it on Friday mornings as well, which has been very helpful. One of our candidates also happened to be reading it, so he commended it to us, just as we were about to commend it to him. It was a happy providence that did not go unnoticed.

We have met with one of our candidates, because he decided to visit our church while on a forced escape from hurricane Irene, so, of course, we welcomed him and used the time to our mutual blessing and edification, even though the primary plan has been to line up our candidates first and then begin the formal interviewing process. Things are coalescing into a healthy assembly of several candidates from different denominations. They all have impressive educational credentials, experience in leadership, sound doctrine in the reformed tradition and tend to favor expository preaching which does not rule out sound topical exposition as well. We like to think of them as having the kind of "generous orthodoxy" that is needed as an eclectic gathering of believers, with an Anglican root system. Ahead lays the task of interviews and the vetting process of calling references. It becomes more humbling by the minute. We are blessed by your prayers as well as by your constructive comments.

On our church crest, in the lower right quadrant, stands a symbol of Pittsburgh, under the hovering dove. As much as any city in the world, Pittsburgh demonstrated that personal faith in Christ can make a public difference and has been doing so for over 60 years, ever since the legendary Reverend Dr. Sam Shoemaker held the vision for her to become as famous for God as she was then for steel. There have been a plethora of initiatives into our social fabric over these years. Our own John Guest has led with the same gospel vigor and has instituted many of those initiatives himself, thereby leaving Christ Church at Grove Farm with the rich legacy of both good doctrine and good doing.

Bless you one and all and thank you for your prayers.