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JOHN 10:10

2024 Pastor Search: A Guide to Daily Prayer



A Global Methodist Church

Dear Thrive Church Family,

We believe this is a time of great importance in our church's history. As you may know, Pastor Tom will be retiring this coming spring. In response, a Pastor Search Team has been formed and the search for a new pastor is beginning. This "Search Team" believes that prayer must be at the heart of this process. We're praying, and ask you to pray as well, using this prayer guide.

James 5:16 states, "The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much." With this in mind, we all need to lift up our prayers.

As you pray, please include church staff, the presiding elder, and the future pastor of our church. We want to build unity and have clear knowledge of God's will for our future pastor. Also, it is our hope that you involve the children in your home. If our children can understand the power of prayer in their lives now, it will have a profound effect on their lives as adults.

Thank you for praying as we seek God's path. Also, we thank you for trusting our leadership as we take this task very seriously. We know we're in need of supernatural discernment.

The Thrive Church Pastor Search Team,

Bonnie Walworth, Glen Betts, Andy Persons, Marc Plizga, Karie Saunders, Dave Schwaninger, and Renee Zwick. Presiding Elder: Rev. Kevin Harbin

DAY 1 - FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

Psalm 66:18, John 15:5, Ephesians 5:18 - Pray for deep spiritual cleansing and that each member of the Search Team, as well as the presiding elder is open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Pray for each of these individuals by name: Bonnie, Glen, Andy, Marc, Karie, Dave, Renee, and Kevin.

Day 2 - KNOWLEDGE

Colossians 1:9 - Pray for God to fill all the individuals involved in this search for a new Pastor with His knowledge, His strength and His understanding.

DAY 3 - UNITY

Amos 3:3, Matthew 18:19, Ephesians 4:3 - Pray for powerful unity and oneness in spirit within the Search Team as well as the church staff.

DAY 4 - DIRECTION

Isaiah 55:8-9 - Pray for God's clear direction in how resumes are examined, and interviews are conducted. Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the Search Team.

DAY 5 - WISDOM

James 1:5-6 - Pray for the Search Team to have God's guidance in all the questions and information they share with the prospective Pastor.

DAY 6 - DISCERNMENT

1 Corinthians 2:10-16 - Pray for the Search Team to have wisdom and discernment for the unique characteristics and traits most needed for our church in a Pastor.

DAY 7 - GOD'S TIMING

Ephesians 5:17 - Pray for the Search Team to have no timetable but God's. While there most certainly is an earthly schedule, this work must be done in God's timing.

DAY 8 - PROTECTION

Ephesians 6:10-12 - Pray for the prevention of social influences in misleading or rushing the Search Team as well as the presiding elder. Pray that they would not be deceived, and pray that this group, along with their families would be protected against earthly and spiritual distractions.

DAY 9 - GUIDANCE

Proverbs 11:14 - Pray for God's guidance in how the future Pastor is presented to the church. Pray that our first meeting is smooth, positive, revealing and honest.

DAY 10 - GOD'S WILL

Philippians 2:3-11 - Pray that the Search Team will seek God's will for the church: Not their own will or even the will of the congregation.

DAY 11 - SEEK GOD

Jeremiah 29:13, James 4:8 - Pray the Pastor search will be a time the church learns to seek God Himself more than just a new Pastor. Pray that the church would be drawn closer to Jesus, to obey Him as the true head of the church. Pray that we all open to the Holy Spirit's work in this process.

Day 12 - CLEANSING AND RENEWAL

Psalm 66:18, Psalm 139:23-24 - Pray for the congregation to refocus their spiritual life. To put Christ at the center of everything. Pray for God to remove anything that doesn't honor Him.

DAY 13 - CONSISTENCY AND FOCUS

Revelation 2:1-4, Revelation 3:15 - Pray for renewed strength and focus in all of our church's ministries, including the daily work of our church staff. Pray that they would hold fast to The Truth, and that this focus would not waver during this time of transition.

DAY 14 - LOVE AND UNITY

John 13:34, John 17:21 - Pray for a miraculous and supernatural sense of love and unity among all members of the church. Pray for help to surrender any bitterness or division within our church family.

DAY 15 - GUIDANCE AND STRENGTH

Psalms 32:8, Isaiah 41:10 - Pray for guidance and strength for our pastoral candidates. Give them a sense of God's direction and allow their families to sense God's will.

DAY 16 - PREPARED FOR GROWTH

Ephesians 4:1-6 - Pray that we will be prepared to make the necessary changes to embrace a new day of ministry. Pray for God to prepare us to change and grow with graciousness and unity, so we can be the church He has called us to be.

DAY 17 - PATIENCE

Hebrews 6:12 - Pray that we will patiently await God's timing and settle for nothing less than His perfect will. Ask God to give us a true follower of Jesus Christ, and to give us a strong leader.

DAY 18 - HUMILITY

Philippians 2:3-11 - Pray that all church members will humbly set aside individual expectations for the new Pastor. Help us to understand that God is making a new thing, and that different can be good.

DAY 19 - PREPARED HEART

Isaiah 42:9 - Some churches struggle with wanting a Pastor who is like their previous Pastor. Others desire someone who is just the opposite. Pray that all would be receptive to God's will for our congregation and that we will accept His perfect will above our own desires.

DAY 20 - TRUST

Hebrews 13:17 - Pray that the church as a whole would trust the Search Team through the process of finding a new Pastor. Pray the congregation would trust that the Search Team is being led by the Spirit as they seek a new leader for His church. Pray that the church is unified and that there is no division.

DAY 21 - BOLDNESS

2 Timothy 4:1-5 - Pray that God would increase our next Pastor's passion for preaching the Word of God and this pastor would boldly proclaim the truth.

DAY 22 - LOVE

Philippians 1:3-11 - Pray that God would give our next Pastor a love for our church and strength to leave the familiar. Pray that God would make His will known to the new Pastor and their family.

DAY 23 - FAMILY

Colossians 1:9-12 - Pray for our next pastor's family. The new Pastor may be married or single, may have children or not. Pray that God would strengthen the new Pastor. Give this new leader, wisdom, strength and compassion.

DAY 24 - FERVENCY

Romans 12:9-13 - Pray that God would prepare our new Pastor to always have great zeal and passion for serving the Lord in His ministry. Pray that this pastor is ready to be God's messenger not only in our church, but in the surrounding community.

DAY 25 - CONFIDENCE

Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 6:16 - Pray for the future Pastor and their family to have absolute certainty in their sense of call to our church.

DAY 26 - GUIDANCE

Proverbs 16:9 - Pray for those the new Pastor may be leaving behind. Pray that whether the pastor is leaving a formal congregation or some other form of ministry, that these individuals will trust God's plan and that they will see a great movement of the Holy Spirit.

DAY 27 - VISION

Amos 4:13 - Pray that the new Pastor will have a clear vision for how to minister to the people of Thrive Church and the surrounding community. Pray that many will become followers of Christ and grow to love God, love others and make disciples through the leadership and work of this new Pastor.

DAY 28 - TRANSITION

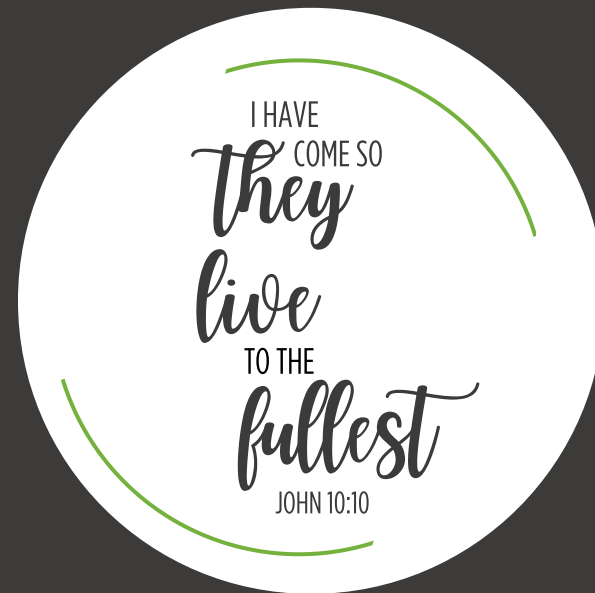
Luke 12:22-31 - Pray that the new Pastor and their family will be able to smoothly transition to our church. Pray that new friends will surround them, and that they will feel welcomed and encouraged.

DAY 29 - SYNERGY

Psalms 133 - Pray that the new Pastor would be able to work effectively with the F.A.S.T. Team, church staff, and other ministry leaders that are already serving at Thrive Church.

DAY 30 - RELATIONSHIPS

Joshua 1:8-9 - Pray that God would protect the new Pastor's heart as preparations are made to leave a familiar ministry and move to a new ministry. Pray that the stresses of moving, meeting new people, maintaining relationships, etc. would not interfere with the need to continually develop a stronger relationship with God.



DAY 31 - GOD'S GLORY

Romans 11:36 - Above all, pray that God's will would be done, and His name would be glorified through the entire process of finding a new Pastor for Thrive Church. Pray that God's work would be visible to everyone as we continue trusting the One who richly provides.

Continued Prayers

Please continue to pray after the 31-day devotion is finished by starting again with Day 1. Your prayers are incredibly important to us. Beyond this, the process of searching for a new pastor cannot be properly accomplished without your prayers.

If you decide not to begin the prayer guide again, please continue to pray for the "Search Team", church staff, the congregation, and the future pastor. We ask you pray for unity, for no division, for protection from the evil one and for God's will to be done. Also, please include the children in your home when you pray.