



Hello Katy's First Baptist,

Happy New Years! The year 2023, our church's 125th anniversary, is going to be a great year for Katy's First Baptist Church!

First off, I would like to thank the Deacon Officers and all the hard work that they have put into getting us to the point of being ready to present a Senior Pastor Search Committee to the church. They have been working hard on a weekly basis on this, and other items, that can help keep the church body intact, informed, engaged and excited about the changes taking place in our church. I truly believe that God is preparing our church to move us up to the next level in both size and giving! We just need to trust and believe, Proverbs 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. All I have to give the officers is gratitude and thankfulness so thank you (in alphabetical order of last name) Michael Annas, Bob Baldwin, Bo Bohall and Steve Hines. Not only have they continued their service in the other capacities at the church, they have also been meeting and planning consistently since about mid November. Please thank them and keep them in your prayers! We have also asked Zach to step up on his responsibilities. He has been in most of our meetings and fielding calls and emails from us on a regular basis, so please keep him and all the staff in your prayers too! Thanks Zach!

The goal for the deacon officers was to quickly and diligently form a committee from the church body, so we can then allow God to begin His work through these members. This in no way means that we took this lightly or too fast! To that end I would like to share some of the criteria we discussed and reviewed about the people who have been chosen to serve on the committee. First off, if you did not receive a call to serve that does not mean we do not feel that you have the ability or spirituality to serve on this committee. Our church By-Laws call for a pastoral search committee to be 5 to 7 members. After much discussion we decided on a committee of 7 members. In addition to the 7 committee members, there will be 2 alternates present at all the meetings; however, the 2 alternates will not vote unless one of the current members has to drop for any reason. This way if something comes up with one of the committee members needing to step down it does not slow down the process.

While looking at our nomination list we looked for diversity on some criteria and homogeneity in other criteria. For diversity we looked at demographics such as age and gender. We wanted the committee be approximately half male and half female. We tried to put in some people in the 20 to 30 age bracket and then some more mature with age and wisdom. We tried hard to make sure that the church as a whole (minus the youth) was represented. This was really the hardest part trying to fill the different demographics since we had many good candidates for all the different areas. For the homogeneous topics we wanted everyone to be theologically sound (as possible for a layperson), believe in biblical inerrancy, be active in the church, serve the church in some capacity, be a tither, have a good reputation and full of the Spirit, having the



ability to demonstrate spiritual and personal maturity in relations with others, have a passion for prayer and seeking the will of God, be considered wise and discerning, have the ability to meet on a consistent basis, and be willing to travel to listen to the candidate preach if needed. While my head is spinning at this point with all these criteria we contemplated, with all the names that were giving to the deacon officers, this is what we discussed as we went down the list of names that people nominated. As I said before if you didn't make the committee it doesn't mean that we don't think that you don't exhibit these qualities, we just had to narrow down the list.

The following names have been contacted and are willing to serve on the Senior Pastor Search Committee and I now ask you to prayerfully consider these people before the vote on the committee on 8 January 2023 (wow yes already 2023). The vote will be for the whole committee, it is not on a person by person basis, based off our By-Laws. At this point I ask that you pray for wisdom and understanding before you vote this Sunday and then if approved by the church, pray for the search committee to have wisdom and discernment.

View the Recommended Pastor Search Committee I truly believe that God is positioning Katy's First for a greater, bigger and better future! We are trying to do our part and then get out of the way and let God do his work! We are praying for you and the church daily. You can be praying for the church staff and the deacon officers and hopefully soon the Senior Pastor Search Committee.

PSA - While I haven't heard of any division in the church this is a good time for the enemy to step in and cause division and strife! If you hear of any division, rumors, scuttlebutt inside the church please step in and stop it. It is more than likely just some miscommunication, remember the old telephone game. The bible has some serious words about causing any division inside the church (Romans 16:17-19). This is a great time for us to be uplifting and encouraging to our fellow members and the staff.

Thank you for all that you are doing to make Katy's First a great place to be while being welcoming, uplifting and encouraging to our guests, members and staff.

Ben Keel III
Chairmen of the Deacons