

April 29, 2009

Dear First Baptist Family,

Your Committee of Deacons met last night for our regular monthly meeting. The major item on the agenda concerned the coming vacancy in our pulpit. From the beginning of our discussion, the deacons expressed a desire for unity within our body and the body of the church as a whole. Also, they expressed a desire to look forward rather than look backward, as we undertake this process. This letter is to inform you of the action taken by your deacons.

The deacons voted unanimously to undertake a time of study and evaluation prior to recommending that the church elect a Pastor Search Committee. As required by our church constitution, the Chair of the Committee of Deacons will appoint a committee (Pulpit Supply Committee) to be responsible for filling the pulpit during this period of study and evaluation. By unanimous vote, the deacons approved using Jack Causey, Ministerial Resources Coordinator for CBF of North Carolina, as a consultant to the Pulpit Supply Committee and the Pastor Search Committee.

Also, by unanimous vote, the deacons approved the formation of a Visioning Team that will guide us through the time of study and evaluation prior to the Pastor Search Committee election. It is expected that members of this team will be appointed in June and begin its work after Dr. Leathers' departure on July 26. This team will have two primary purposes:

- Solicit input from church members to determine what their vision for our church looks like. This vision would be passed on to the Pastor Search Committee once it is elected to assist them in matching our vision for the church to the pastor profile they will develop.
- Solicit input from church members as to what qualities they would like to see in our next pastor. This input would be passed on to the Pastor Search Committee once it is elected to assist them in developing a pastor profile.

Prior to the morning service on Sunday, May 17, a church conference will be called for the purpose of announcing the Committee of Deacons recommendation to undertake a time of study and evaluation before calling for the election of a Pastor Search Committee. It is likely that members of the Pulpit Supply Committee will be announced during the conference.

As we move forward in our search for a new pastor, be encouraged by what our Lord tells us in Jeremiah 29:11... **“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Blessings,

Woody Tucker, Chair
Committee of Deacons