

Pastor Search Prayer Guide

31 DAYS OF PRAYER



OVERVIEW

Focus your prayers on the daily topic listed in this guide. Meditate on the day's biblical passages and let the Holy Spirit speak to you through them.

Pray through this guide until God unmistakably provides our church with the pastor He has chosen to lead His people.

Continue to pray for the members of our pastor search committee.

DAY1-10: Pray for the Pastor Search Committee

DAY 11-20: Pray for Congregation

DAY 21-30: Pray for the Next Pastor



DAY 1

JOHN 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

PRAY

Pray for deep spiritual cleansing and complete surrender to the Holy Spirit in each Search Committee member. Pray this for each member by name.



DAY 2

COLOSSIANS 1:9

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding.

PRAY

Pray for God to fill the chairman with knowledge of His will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding and for strength.



DAY 3

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10

I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

PRAY

Pray for powerful unity and oneness in spirit within the Search Committee.



DAY 4

ISAIAH 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

PRAY

Pray for God's clear direction in how resumes are examined and interviews conducted. Ask God to bring the right person to the attention of the committee.



DAY 5

1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-16

These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

PRAY

Pray for the Search Committee to have God's wisdom in all the questions and information they share with the prospective pastor. Spirit-led thoroughness is essential.



DAY 6

JAMES 1:5-6

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.

PRAY

Pray for the Search Committee to have wisdom and discernment as to the unique characteristics and traits most needed for our church in a pastor.



DAY 7

EPHESIANS 5:17

Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

PRAY

Pray for the Search Committee to have no timetables but God's. They must be determined to find God's perfect will in God's perfect timing.



DAY 8

EPHESIANS 6:10-12

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

PRAY

Pray for the prevention of Satan's influence in misleading or rushing the Search Committee; and for a powerful hedge of protection around the committee and their families.



DAY 9

ROMANS 15:5-6

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAY

Pray for God's guidance in how the future pastor is presented to the church. Pray that there would be no division among the Search Committee or the congregation. Only unity.



DAY 10

PROVERBS 3:6

In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

PRAY

Pray that the Search Committee will seek God's will for the church above their own desires.



DAY 11

JAMES 4:8

Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

PRAY

Pray that the pastor search period will be a time the church learns to trust and seek God Himself more than just a new pastor. "Lord, teach us to draw close to Jesus and trust Him as the true head of the church and not in man."



DAY 12

PSALM 139:23-24

Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

PRAY

Pray for a powerful move of congregational cleansing and renewal. "Father, please cause this to be a time of deep cleansing and renewal in our church. May we always be the church You have called us to be. It's all about You and not us."



DAY 13

REVELATION 3:15

“I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!”

PRAY

Pray for strong consistency and focus on the present ministry of the church.
"Please grant great power to our staff and to those who will fill our pulpit.
Protect us from any spirit of being lukewarm or losing our first love. Protect
us from the evil one and remind us that we serve Jesus, not a pastor."



DAY 14

JOHN 13:34

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.

PRAY

Pray for a miraculous sense of love and unity among all members of the church. "Help us surrender all bitterness, division, and anger within our church family. Lord, empower us to love one another with a patient, forgiving love."



DAY 15

JOHN 17:21

That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

PRAY

Pray for great unity in calling the new pastor. "Lord, help us to receive him and his family with deep love and renewed commitment, Grant us a powerful sense of revival and spiritual awakening and we move into the future," Pray for grace, guidance, and strength for the church from which our new pastor comes.



DAY 16

EPHESIANS 4:1-6

I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

PRAY

Pray that we will be prepared to make the necessary changes to embrace a new day of ministry. "Lord, we understand that a new pastor always means changes. Help us to be prepared to change and grow with graciousness and unity so we can be the church You have called us to be."



DAY 17

HEBREWS 6:10-12

For God is not unjust so as to overlook your work and the love that you have shown for his name in serving the saints, as you still do. And we desire each one of you to show the same earnestness to have the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you may not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

PRAY

Pray that we will patiently await God's timing and settle for nothing less than His perfect will. Ask God for His mercy in giving us a true man of God and a great leader.



DAY 18

PHILIPPIANS 2:3-11

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

PRAY

Pray that church members will set aside personal preferences and in unity, seek the pastor God is calling to lead us in accomplishing His will for our church.



DAY 19

ISAIAH 42:9

Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.

PRAY

Some churches struggle with wanting a pastor just like their previous pastor, while others desire someone who is just the opposite. Pray that all would be receptive to God's doing a new thing in the congregation and that we would accept His perfect will above our own desires.



DAY 20

- HEBREWS 13:17

Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

PRAY

Pray that the church as a whole will trust the Search Committee through the process of finding a new pastor. Pray that the congregation would trust that they are being led by the Holy Spirit as they search for the man God is bringing to our church, and that there would be no division.



DAY 21

2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5

I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

PRAY

Pray that God would increase our next pastor's passion for preaching the Word of God and that he would boldly proclaim truth.



DAY 22

PHILIPPIANS 1:3-11

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

PRAY

Pray that God would give our next pastor a love for our church and strength to leave his current position. Pray that God would make His will known to him and his family.



DAY 23

COLOSSIANS 1:9-12

And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

PRAY

Pray for our next pastor's family. Whether married or single, having children or not, pray that God would strengthen and guide the new pastor's family as they are led toward our church. Give them peace in knowing God's will.



DAY 24

ROMANS 12:9-13

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

PRAY

Pray that God would prepare our next pastor to always have great zeal and passion for serving the Lord in his ministry. Pray for God's strength in his weakness and may he be faithful in prayer.



DAY 25

- ROMANS 12:1-2

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

PRAY

Pray for the future pastor and his family to have absolute certainty in their sense of call to our church. He must know God's direction. Pray also for protection from the evil one and for our future pastor and his family.



DAY 26

JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

PRAY

Pray for God's strength and guidance in the pastor's former church. Pray that those with whom he is currently ministering would trust God's plan for his servant in leading him to a new location of ministry.



DAY 27

MATTHEW 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

PRAY

Pray that the new pastor will have a clear vision for how to minister to the people of our church and surrounding community. Pray that many will come to know Jesus through our church.



DAY 28

LUKE 12:22-31

And he said to his disciples, “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

PRAY

Pray for the pastor and his family to experience a smooth transition to our church. Pray for physical needs like housing and schooling, as well as the social needs of his wife and children in making new friends. Pray that they will feel as if they have always been with us.



DAY 29

PSALM 133

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! It is like the precious oil on the head, running down on the beard, on the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes! It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion! For there the Lord has commanded the blessing, life forevermore.

PRAY

Pray that the new pastor would be able to work effectively with the other church staff and deacons that are already serving in our church.



DAY 30

JOSHUA 1:8-9

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

PRAY

Pray that God would protect the new pastor's heart as he prepares to leave his current ministry and move to a new one. Pray that the stresses of moving, meeting new people, maintaining relationships, etc. would not interfere with his need to continually develop his relationship with God. Pray that God would give him and his family peace knowing they are in God's will.



DAY 31

COLOSSIANS 3:12-17

Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

PRAY

Above all, pray that God's will would be done through the entire process of finding a new pastor for our church. Pray that the Holy Spirit will give everyone involved in this process wisdom and peace. Pray that God will show us whom He is calling to our church.





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