

We are pleased to update you on our pastoral search. We have slowed down the process over this past month in order to celebrate Easter as well as to honour Charles and Sherryl Stone as they prepare to retire.

Our next step in the search process is to take a congregational survey. This afternoon all of the WestPark family, that have given your contact information to the church, will receive an email. Within this email will be some basic instructions and a link to take you right to the survey. For those of you who would prefer to complete a paper copy, or have not given your contact information to the church, you can pick the survey up from the "Welcome Centre". Just complete it and submit it back to the office next Sunday.

We want everyone to take the survey. This is not one per household, but one per individual, right from senior high to our seniors. This is a chance for you to have a voice in the process. There is a section to express your opinions and thoughts. It is confidential and each and every one of your comments will be read. Please try to have the surveys completed by Wednesday April 19th.

Why are we digging so deep and why is it taking so long?

1. We want to understand the church's heart on the giftedness and leadership style they desire in the new Lead Pastor.
2. We may find that we need to address some issues related to the search now, rather than waiting for the new pastor.
3. We need to be confident that there is clarity and alignment between ourselves, the staff, the leadership, and the congregation.
4. Any strong potential candidate will want to review the data from the survey to be assured of a proper fit.

Moving forward, the board will be meeting with our consultant on May 3rd to analyze all the information we have to date.

On Sunday May 7th, you will be able to meet Steve Adams as he will be speaking at WestPark church. We are asking that you come back to church on Monday May 8th at 7pm. Steve will be presenting a report to the congregation. He will paint a picture of the type and style of individual that we believe God is preparing for us. There will be lots of time for questions and answers as we embark on the next phase of the search process.

We expect to begin the candidate search on May 14th. At the same time, we will be entering into a church wide 30-day prayer initiative as we, together, seek the Lord for his guidance and protection.

During this time of transition, I encourage you to continue to be generous with your giving and your prayers for your elder board, for our amazing staff, plus Steve Adams and the entire search process.

Dan Bird, Elder Chair

