

PASTORAL SEARCH PRAYER GUIDE

Day 1

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 3:5-6

5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

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

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the church to wholeheartedly trust the Lord while searching for a pastor.

Pray for the search committee to trust the Holy spirit's leadership.

Day 2

Scripture Reading: Revelation 2:1-7

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. **3** I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. **4** But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. **5** Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. **6** Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. **7** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the church to return to her first love, Jesus Christ.

Pray for the church and search committee to hear the Spirit clearly throughout the pastor search process.

Day 3

Scripture Reading: 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, **2** with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, **3** eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. **4** There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— **5** one Lord, one faith, one baptism, **6** one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for unity and peace in the church while searching for a pastor.

Pray for a strong sense of unity among the search committee as they review and discuss potential pastoral candidates.

Day 4

Scripture Reading: John 15:1-8

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. **3** Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. **4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **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. **6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for church members to continually abide in Christ and produce much fruit that glorifies the Father during the interim period.

Pray for members of the search committee to remain close to Christ.

Day 5

Scripture Reading: John 15:9-15

9 As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love. 10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. 11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

12 "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. 13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. 14 You are my friends if you do what I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, [a] for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for church members to abide in the love of Christ and love one another with the love of Christ.

Pray for God to bond the church and future pastor together in love.

Day 6

Scripture Reading: John 15:16-17

16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you. 17 These things I command you, so that you will love one another.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for a season of fruitful ministry as the church prepares for her next pastor.

Pray for the search committee to be blessed with answered prayers.

Day 7

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 29:11-13

11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare [a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the search committee and the church to hope in God and seek Him wholeheartedly with the realization that he is in control of the church's future.

Day 8

Scripture Reading: Psalm 139:23-24

23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts!

24 And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!

Prayer Prompts: Pray for members of the search committee to have hearts that are pure as they work through the pastor search process.

Pray for your future pastor to maintain a pure life before God.

Day 9

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-11

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

Prayer Prompts: Pray with the understanding that searching for a pastor is primarily a spiritual process, so spiritual warfare will be present.

Pray for God's protection on the search committee and the church.

Day 10

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-2

You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, 2 and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, [a] who will be able to teach others also.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for your future pastor and his family to be strengthened by the grace of Jesus Christ.

Pray that your future pastor will be a faithful disciple-maker.

Day 11

Scripture Reading: James 1:5-8

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. 6 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. 7 For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the search committee to seek God's wisdom as they review resumes and prepare to contact potential pastoral candidates.

Pray for church leaders to seek God's wisdom in the interim period.

Day 12

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:9-12

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, 10 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; 11 being strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy; 12 giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for your future pastor and his family to be certain that it is God's will to transition to a new field of ministry.

Pray the Father will be glorified in the pastor search process.

Day 13

Scripture Reading: Acts 2:41-42

41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the church to reflect the six elements of a healthy church both in the interim period and when the new pastor is called serve.

(worship, discipleship, ministry, fellowship, evangelism, and prayer)

Day 14

Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:1-6

1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

"I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. 2 Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. 3 Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. 4 Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. 5 The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. 6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the church to be filled with life through the Holy Spirit.

Pray for the church to be strengthened to carry out the vision God has for her.

Day 15

Scripture Reading: John 13:34-35

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. 35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the search committee and the church to be obedient to Christ's command to love one another.

Pray the church's Christ-like love will be seen by the world.

Day 16

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, **21** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer Prompts: Pray the power of Christ would be known in and through the church and that all glory would be given to Him throughout the pastor search process.

Day 17

Scripture Reading: Psalm 51:10-12

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for each member of the search committee to stay close to the Lord through hearts that are continually cleansed by Him.

Pray for your next pastor to keep a cleansed heart before the Lord.

Day 18

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 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: **2** preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. **3** 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, **4** and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. **5** As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for your future pastor to faithfully preach the Word of God.

Pray the Lord gives the church a hunger of the Word of God and receptivity to the sermons that are preached by the new pastor.

Day 19

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 13:17

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.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for your future pastor to faithfully shepherd the church and for members of the church to willingly and joyfully place themselves under his servant leadership.

Day 20

Scripture Reading: Joshua 1:9

9 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."

Prayer Prompts: Pray for each member of the search committee to have an overwhelming sense of God's presence and guidance as they work through the steps of the pastor search process.

Day 21

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 2:2-6

1 My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, **2** making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; **3** yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, **4** if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, **5** then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. **6** For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

Prayer Prompts: Pray for your future pastor to seek God's wisdom in every area of life and decision making.

Pray for the search committee to be attentive to the Lord's wisdom.

Day 22

Scripture Reading: James 4:1-12

What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? 2 You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. 4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. 5 Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, "He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us"? 6 But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

11 Do not speak evil against one another, brothers. The one who speaks against a brother or judges his brother, speaks evil against the law and judges the law. But if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge. 12 There is only one lawgiver and judge, he who is able to save and to destroy. But who are you to judge your neighbor?

Prayer Prompts: Pray for church members to humble themselves before the Lord and seek His cleansing power in order for revival to come.

Pray for the search committee to continually submit to God's will.

Day 23

Scripture Reading: John 17:20-23

20 "I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, 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. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the church to be unified so that the world will be impacted with the gospel and the Father will be glorified.

Pray for the search committee to be unified in their decision making.

Day 24

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:15

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for a pastor who is able to rightly discern the Word of God.

Pray for the search committee as they listen to sermons of potential pastoral candidates.

Day 25

Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 33:3

3 Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Prayer Prompts: Pray that a burden for deep and urgent prayer permeates the church not only as you seek God's will for a pastor, but also as you continue to seek God's vision for the church.

Day 26

Scripture Reading: 1 Timothy 3:1-7

The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, 5 for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. 7 Moreover, he

must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for your next pastor to be a man who exhibits Christ-like character both publicly and privately.

Pray for your future pastor's family as they transition to a new work.

Day 27

Scripture Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

12 Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, 13 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. 14 And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. 15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. 16 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. 17 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.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for your church to grow in love toward one another.

Pray for unresolved conflict to be worked out and for reconciliation among any broken relationships in the church.

Day 28

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for your future pastor to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of Christ.

Pray for the church to look to Christ as the Head of the body.

Day 29

Scripture Reading: Revelation 3:14-22

14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

15 "'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! 16 So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. 17 For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. 19 Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. 20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. 21 The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne. 22 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the church to fight against lukewarm spirituality.

Pray church members repent of a lukewarm spirituality and become filled with a zeal for Jesus and His Kingdom work.

Day 30

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 10:19-25

19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the church to be committed to biblical worship.

Pray for the search committee to be confident that they are following God's will as they make decisions regarding your future pastor.

Day 31

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 5:1-4

1 So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: 2 shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; 3 not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Prayer Prompts: Pray that your future pastor shepherds the church in a biblical and Christ-exalting manner.

Pray for your future pastor's walk with Christ.

Day 32

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 5:5-7

5 Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." 6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for mutual respect and humility between the church and your future pastor.

Pray for the church to follow the leadership of your future pastor.

Day 33

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. 9 Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the search committee to remain humble before God and that they will not be anxious, but trust God's leadership.

Pray that the church will stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Day 34

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:15-16

15 Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the search committee to make wise use of their time during their meetings.

Pray for the Lord to reveal His will to your future pastor.

Day 35

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9

6 "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; 7 let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. 9 For as the heavens are

higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Prayer Prompts: Pray that in times of discouragement, the search committee and the church will seek the Lord diligently and have confidence that He is at work bringing the church and future pastor together.

Day 36

Scripture Reading: Colossians 1:24-29

24 Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church, 25 of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26 the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. 27 To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28 Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. 29 For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me.

Prayer Prompts: Pray that when the time comes to extend a call to your next pastor, God will make it unmistakably clear to the future pastor and church.

Pray for the Lord to work powerfully in the church to make disciples.

Day 37

Scripture Reading: 2 Timothy 2:24-26

24 And the Lord's servant[a] must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, 25 correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the search committee to discern if potential pastoral candidates possess the biblical qualities of a servant of the Lord.

Pray for the church to affirm these qualities in their future pastor.

Day 38

Scripture Reading: Galatians 6:9

9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

Prayer Prompts: Pray for the search committee to not grow weary in their work.

Pray that the search committee and the church will be able to see God's hand at work bringing you and your future pastor together.

Day 39

Scripture Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Prayer Prompts: Pray that Christ's attitude of humility and servanthood permeates both the search committee and the church during the pastor search process.

Day 40

Scripture Reading: Matthew 28:18-20

18 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 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, 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Prayer Prompts: Pray for your church to be a Great Commission church that makes disciples.
Pray that your future pastor will be a Great Commission leader.