

Guide for 40 Days of Prayer for Senior Pastor Search

1. Pray that our church family would commit to pray daily for our church, our current interim pastor, our staff, our elders, our future senior pastor, and our missionaries. (Acts 1:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
2. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the Pastoral Search Committee as they seek the man of God's choice to be our next senior pastor. Pray that personal preferences and the pressures of others would not supplant the process of prayerfully and carefully evaluating each candidate in the light of God's Word. (1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9)
3. Pray that our interim pastor, pastoral and program staff will have the strength and endurance they need to serve God and Southern Gables Church with excellence during this transition time, relying on the power of the Spirit and receiving the support of the congregation. (Philippians 4:13)
4. Pray that all of us would draw near to Christ through daily prayer, hungering and thirsting for righteousness and holiness. (Matthew 5:6; Ephesians 1:4; James 4:7-8)
5. Pray that our church would be infused with unity so that we are bound to Christ in love and so the work of the Kingdom is promoted. Pray that our thinking would come into alignment with God's thinking. (2 Chronicles 30:12; Psalm 133:1; John 17:20-23; Romans 15:5-6; Ephesians 4:3-6)
6. Pray that pastoral candidates would apply in a timely way, and would be open and honest as they respond to our questions. Pray that we would also be able to contact references in a timely way and that they would be candid regarding both strengths and weaknesses of the candidates. Pray that truth about the candidates would be revealed to the Search Committee and that truth about Southern Gables would be revealed to the candidates. (Proverbs 2:6; 8:12; James 1:5)
7. Pray for God's timing in the selection of our new pastor and in the timing of the start of his ministry at Southern Gables. Pray that we would not rush ahead of God, nor drag behind Him. (John 2:4; 7:3-9; 17:1)
8. Pray that God would direct those candidates whom we do not choose into the work for which He has uniquely called and gifted them. Pray that the process of interacting with our Search Committee would be good preparation for that place of service. (Romans 12:5-8)
9. Pray against gossip, negative criticism, false expectations, unhealthy burdens, strife and weariness that will seek to invade our church family and staff. (Ephesians 4:25, 29-32)
10. Pray for a renewal of commitment to God and His service and an increase of vitality and vision that is from God for our pastors and leaders both personally and collectively so that the church can be galvanized and revitalized as a caring, committed community for God's Kingdom and purpose. (Isaiah 61:1-3; Romans 12)
11. Pray that we as a church family would remain faithful and good stewards so the financial needs of the church are met and ministry is not hindered. (Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Philippians 4:19)

12. Pray for protection of the search committee from attack: time, health, internet and email connections, necessary confidentiality, appropriate feedback to the congregation, personal prayer lives, family issues, schedules, etc. (Ephesians 6:11, 18; James 4:7; 1 Peter 4:10-11; 5:8)
13. Pray for discernment in exposing any plans of the enemy against our church, pastors and staff. Ask Christ to protect us as we wage spiritual warfare against the enemy on behalf of our church. (Ephesians 6:11-12, 16; 1 Peter 3:12)
14. Pray that our church, our interim pastor, our staff, and our future pastor would have and continue to pursue a growing, consistent walk with Christ with a devotional and prayer life that is steadfast. Pray that each would truly be people of integrity, people after God's own heart. Pray that each would allow Christ to work in them and use them as they grow closer to Christ in their faith, spiritual formation, maturity and love. (Psalm 5:3; 16:8; 2 Timothy 2:22-23; 2 Peter 1:5-8)
15. Pray that the Word of God will never be compromised, cheapened or dumbed down; rather that it would be delivered with accuracy, clarity, conviction and boldness through the power of the Holy Spirit. Pray that the Holy Spirit would use the preaching to both enable people to understand what God is saying in His Word and to change lives. (Colossians 1:28-29; 2 Timothy 2:15)
16. Pray that our church members would become real authentic disciples of Jesus Christ who are learning, growing and producing spiritual fruit and in turn making more disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20; John 15:4-5; Galatians 5:22-23)
17. Pray for healing, forgiveness and reconciliation for any misplaced expectations, criticism, ungrateful attitudes, flawed thinking, grief, hurts, and abuse. (Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-20; Ephesians 4:32-5:1)
18. Pray for discernment on the part of our leaders to seek God's leading and direction and not trends, traditions, personal agendas, or anything that is not from the Spirit and the Word. Pray that they can discern and prioritize what is important and precious and what is not. (Isaiah 6:5; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Timothy 3:5; 1 John 4:1)
19. Pray that the spirit and practice of humility would be a characteristic of our church members, personally, corporately, and in our daily lives, but that false humility would not take root. Pray that pride would not set in with our current leadership or with our future pastor. (Proverbs 8:13; 1 Peter 5:5-7)
20. Pray that our church would be a community of grace and forgiveness with an atmosphere of encouragement because we are grateful for Christ's work in us. (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)
21. Pray that both evangelism and discipleship out of love for Jesus and for one another would continue to be, or would become, priorities for our church and our members. (Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 5:14-20)
22. Pray that our church members would offer genuine hospitality to all who come through our doors. Pray that we would be known as a people who truly love God and who truly love one another. (Mark 12:29-31; Romans 12:9-16)
23. Pray for integrity, perseverance, strength, and encouragement for each staff member as they seek to continue to fulfill their calling with excellence in the power and spirit of Jesus during this transitional period. (2 Chronicles 31:20-21; Romans 12:6-8)

24. Pray that our congregation would be willing and able to come and support the church and staff with grateful hands and words, as people whom God has called and who are accountable to God. (Matthew 9:37-38; Acts 14:23)
25. Pray for God's timing of the transition between the interim pastor and the new senior pastor. Pray that we as a church family would be prepared to support him and his family through prayer, encouragement and practical helps. (1 Corinthians 9:7-12; 1 Timothy 5:17)
26. Pray that the new senior pastor would quickly get to know us and love us, would see our strengths and weaknesses, and would work well and wisely with the elders and staff as he steps into his new role. (John 13:14-16, 34-35; Ephesians 4:1-3, 11-13; 1 Peter 5:2-3)
27. Pray that our church would receive God's direction and vision for ourselves and our church, that we would be nourished from the substance of God's Word, and the needs of the congregation would be met. (2 Samuel 22:31-34; Isaiah 30:21)
28. Pray that our church, pastor and leaders would give real Biblical help and counseling from God's wisdom and Word to those in need. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
29. Pray that negative thinking, misunderstandings, stress, being overwhelmed, overcommitted, or under-appreciated, as well as the ways of the world and the tyranny of the urgent would not get into our "spiritual home" and take over. (Acts 6:2-7; 1 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 4:17)
30. Pray for revival in our hearts as we trust God for His will for Southern Gables. Pray we would be fervent in prayer even as we trust God and wait patiently for God's timing in bringing us His choice of a new senior pastor. (Psalm 46:10; Proverbs 14:29)
31. Pray that we would commit to follow the Biblical mandate to support and encourage the leadership of the church. (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 5:17-18)
32. Pray that we would each search our hearts and allow God to change any wicked way in us so we can serve Him and His church well during this time of searching and praying. (Psalm 139:23-24)
33. Pray for the needs of the new senior pastor's current ministry to be met such that he can leave his current position with integrity and in a gracious and timely way. (1 Corinthians 14:33; Colossians 2:5)
34. Pray for appropriate affordable housing and good quality schools to be available to meet the needs of the new senior pastor in a timely way. (1 Corinthians 9:4-5, 11; Philippians 4:19)
35. Pray for godly mentors and friends for the new pastor and each member of his family. (Romans 16)
36. Pray for a smooth transition between the interim pastor and the new senior pastor. Pray that he would quickly bond with the staff and the elders. (Ephesians 4:2-6, 11-13)
37. Pray that we as a congregation and as individuals would understand how to balance love for Pastor Nelson with wholehearted support and honor for our new pastor in a way that affirms them both and that enables the new senior pastor to do the ministry God has called him to. (1 Timothy 4:12-16; 5:17)

38. Pray that the result of this change in senior pastor would be a church which is growing in Christ-likeness and which is fulfilling its mandate to reach out to our community, sharing the truth of the gospel with genuine love. (Matthew 28:18-20)
39. Pray that our personal and corporate worship would come from sincere hearts and would please God. Pray that we would be filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and full of thankfulness to God for what He has done for us. (Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 2:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 1:6)
40. Pray that our church would commit to place our focus on the supremacy of Christ and be dependent upon Him, even as we begin to sit and serve under the ministry of our new senior pastor. (Galatians 6:14; Colossians 1:15-18)

Some of these prayer suggestions were taken from *Prayer Guide for your Church and Pastor!* by Dr. Richard J. Krejcir.

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