



## 360° Prayer Initiative

*A daily guide to provide a spiritual covering over every stage and person involved in our pastoral transition.*

Next to the Spirit's divine leading, prayer is the most important resource for a successful pastoral transition. The prophet Samuel not only understood the importance of prayer during leadership transitions but also perceived a lack of prayer as sin. That is why in his farewell speech to the nation he said, *Far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you* (1 Samuel 12:23 NIV). Moses also modeled how we should pray during leadership transitions saying, *May the LORD, the God who gives breath to all living things, appoint someone over this community to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the LORD's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd* (Numbers 27:16-17 NIV).

That is why the Board would like to call the entire church to a rotating prayer initiative with a daily focus each day. Please continue rotating through the list below until our new pastor is identified.

1. **FAMILY DURING TRANSITION:** Pray for our future pastor's family during the transition that they would experience a smooth changeover and discover their place of ministry.
2. **STRENGTH FOR TRANSITION:** Pray for our future pastor to have strength to endure the changes of transition (relocation, selling/buying a home, moving, packing/unpacking).
3. **UNITY:** Pray for our church to be united during the pastoral transition.
4. **TRANSITIONAL LEADERSHIP:** Pray for the board, staff, interim pastor, and guest speakers during this transition.
5. **CHARACTER:** Pray for all those involved on both sides of the transition process to have integrity, honesty, and trust in God.
6. **COURAGE:** Pray for the board to have the courage to make decisions; take unfavorable positions, if necessary; uphold standards; and act decisively without fear.
7. **DISCERNMENT:** Pray for the board and future pastor to have wisdom to ask the right questions and discern between better and best.
8. **AFFECTED MINISTERS:** Pray for the staff ministers and their families on both sides of this transition. Pray that God would give them faith, trust, and the ability to bless their respective churches in this transition.
9. **AGREEMENT:** Pray for the board to be in agreement regarding the background and experience needed by the next pastor.

10. **SENSITIVITY TO NEEDS:** Pray for the board to place the church's needs before their own as they read applications, listen to sermons, and talk with candidates.
11. **SITUATIONAL WISDOM:** Pray for our future pastor to have the ability to address critical needs and make wise decisions in a short period of time.
12. **DISCERNMENT:** Pray for the board to be led by God's Spirit and know the right questions to ask as they represent the church in the interview process.
13. **FAITH AND OPTIMISM:** Pray for our church to have unusual faith, patience, and trust that God is leading and guiding this process.
14. **JUDGMENT:** Pray for the board to have clarity as they interview, eliminate, and move forward with candidates in the interview process.
15. **HONESTY:** Pray for the board to represent the church accurately, truthfully, and attractively.
16. **TEAM CHEMISTRY:** Pray for our future pastor to have the ability to quickly find, appoint, and delegate tasks to the right people.
17. **WISDOM TO NETWORK:** Pray for those outside the church who will be assisting the board to be sensitive to and led by the Holy Spirit.
18. **RESOURCES:** Pray for our people to remain faithful in their tithes, offerings, and missions giving during the pastoral transition. Also pray that God will lead and enable others to give to the transition fund so our new pastor will have resources in order to implement vision.
19. **SURRENDER:** Pray for those with influence in the search process to subordinate their personal agendas to what is best for the church.
20. **PHYSICAL STAMINA:** Pray for the board to have physical endurance to handle all the necessary demands of this process.
21. **DISCERNMENT:** Pray for the board to have discernment in sorting through all the various styles, philosophies, and ministry models represented by pastoral candidates.
22. **AFFECTED MINISTRY:** Pray for our church or ministry that our future pastor will be leaving. Pray for them to have faith, wisdom, and divine leading in their own transition.
23. **PATIENCE:** Pray for our church to have the ability to trust God and others while investing the necessary time and resources in the pastoral search.
24. **REASONABLE EXPECTATIONS:** Pray for the board not to settle for too little or aim too high thereby setting unreasonable or unattainable expectations.
25. **SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE:** Pray for the board and future pastor to be led by and walk in the Spirit.
26. **DEPARTING MINISTRY:** Pray for the ministry our future pastor will be transitioning out of to assume new leadership. Pray for their previous church's search committee to have a healthy transition and for their denominational executives to be led by the Lord to assist them.
27. **TEAM CHEMISTRY:** Pray for our future pastor to have deacons, staff, and employees who genuinely support their ministry values, philosophy, and initiatives.

28. **PEACE:** Pray for the candidate and the candidate's family to have clarity during their visits with the church and know whether or not this is the next step of ministry to which God is calling them.
29. **WISDOM IN EVALUATING NEEDS:** Pray for the board and interim pastor to have discernment in evaluating the needs and opportunities in this transition.
30. **AFFECTED FAMILIES:** Pray for the ministry staff and family members on both sides of this transition who will need to adjust, support, and serve with a new leader.
31. **FORWARD VISION:** Pray for our future pastor to receive a divine burden and direction as well as outreach to our community and city.
32. **DIVINE CALL:** Pray for our future pastor to sense an irresistible call and mandate from God to lead this church.
33. **SEARCH COMMITTEE:** Pray for the future search committee in the ministry our future pastor will leave. Pray for them to have wisdom, faith, and clarity in their own search.
34. **ROLE CLARIFICATION:** Pray for the board to have clarity as to the characteristics, goals, and responsibilities that should be included in the position description for the next pastor.
35. **MULTIGENERATIONAL:** Pray for our future pastor to be able to relate to the various generations and cultures represented in our church.
36. **SUSTAINABILITY:** Pray for our church not to experience declines in attendance, giving, volunteerism, and morale during this pastoral transition.
37. **PROTECTION:** Pray for no individuals to choose to use this leadership vacuum as a time to promote their own agendas and preferences. Pray for our church to be protected from selfish ambition and that those attempting to do so will be lovingly corrected by the Holy Spirit.
38. **SENSITIVITY:** Pray for the board to hear God's voice with clarity and have peace concerning who should be interviewed.
39. **OPTIMISTIC ANTICIPATION:** Pray for our future pastor, spouse, and family to feel the same peace and excitement that the board feels about them.
40. **MUTUAL CONFIRMATION:** Pray for our entire congregation to feel a sense of peace and confirmation as the new pastor is confirmed through the vote of the official membership.

## Another Helpful Resource

Change is not always easy, especially when it involves a pastoral transition. To help our people better understand this process and how they can help, the board has provided an audio interview at [www.agspe.org/RUready.mp3](http://www.agspe.org/RUready.mp3) that addresses six positive things you can do to grow through our pastoral transition.