

October 19, 2023

Dear Church Family,

We are thankful for the many ways that the Lord has shown his guiding hand to us as a committee and our church thus far in this process. We are humbled and grateful to be able to serve you, our church family, as your representatives in this search process.

Over the past couple weeks we have been working to bring together all that we learned in Phase 1: Discovery & Engagement, so that we can know who we are, our values and priorities, and what we need as a church in this next stage. As a reminder, we will be using this information to both gather and evaluate candidates as we enter into Phase 2: Collection of Candidates and Phase 3: Evaluation of Candidates. We are thankful to be able to share with you the culmination of this work.

After listening to you, the congregation, members from the staff, the Session, and the Diaconate, we spent time in prayer and discussion to determine what priorities we need to focus on in the search for the next senior pastor of Carriage Lane. There was much shared, and we will be keeping all that was shared in our minds as we evaluate candidates. What we are presenting to you and candidates in our church profile is what we have gathered together as some of our main priorities. We have divided these priorities into 5 main sections, and highlighted subpoints underneath these headings to further clarify what we value and think the church needs in our next senior pastor. This is by no means the extensive list of priorities that we have, but it is representative of the main 5 ideals and their supporting attributes.

Carriage Lane seeks a man who:

- Honors the Word
  - preaches the truths of God's Word from a reformed, redemptive, and Christo-centric perspective, clearly and compellingly presenting the gospel of Jesus Christ.
  - is uncompromising on the inerrancy and sufficiency of God's Word in his preaching, ministry, and personal life. Follows the Word and not the clever ideas of man.
  - effectively communicates to people with varying levels of spiritual maturity.
  - is disciplined in study and prayer.
- Prioritizes the Means of Grace
  - is committed to a means of grace ministry through the Word, sacraments, and prayer as God has ordained.
- Serves and Leads the Flock
  - is a servant-leader with the skills to shepherd a large Session and Staff.
  - indirectly leads the church by equipping the officers and heads of households, by God's grace, to fulfill the mission and realize the vision of Carriage Lane.
  - follows the BCO without being overbearing or neglecting responsibility.
  - pursues true fellowship in the body and encourages others to do the same.

- is a peacemaker who speaks the truth in love.
- Engages the World as God Requires
  - has a heart for the lost, stepping out in love and truth, thoughtfully confronting the lies of our time, sharing the good news of God's Word with the lost, and equipping the flock at Carriage Lane to do likewise.
  - identifies compromise and equivocation in his life, in our church, and in our denomination and points God's people back to the Lord and His truth.
- Is a Devoted Disciplemaker
  - follows the Lord closely in his personal walk.
  - leads his family well in following the Lord.
  - shares his learning through preaching and teaching.
  - is active in his support of missions and evangelism.
  - encourages the principle of iron sharpening iron within a multi-generational church.

We are now officially in Phase 2: Collection of Candidates. We have submitted our materials to the PCA's Administrative Committee for it to post on the PCA's job opening website, so that we may receive interested applicants. We expect this to be posted by the end of this week. We are now asking you to pray as you consider sharing potential referrals with us, who you think would be a good fit considering the priorities listed above, to help shepherd and guide the flock at Carriage Lane.

It is good to remember that we trust in a sovereign God—He is at work in a myriad of ways in us as individual believers (including all candidates), as a church family (and all of the other church families where these men are serving or will be serving in the future), and as He is extending His kingdom in the world. He is the one ultimately calling. So as you submit your referrals, we ask that you would work to guard your hearts from expectations about how God may choose to work, and to rest in God's ultimate wisdom and loving care for us as His people. We value your recommendations of men you know who could be a wonderful addition to further God's work in our lives, in Peachtree City and the surrounding areas, and to the world—and we fully expect to have many men who could fit this description. So please be praying for us as we work to discern God's will in narrowing down the candidates to one man to recommend to you, the congregation.

When you are ready to submit a referral, you may access the file [here](#) (or on the website [here](#)). Please note that we are asking you to first contact the man you want to refer, to let him know of your intent to submit his name to the pulpit search committee and to give him an opportunity to assent to or decline the referral. We also are asking that you would encourage him to apply. For the protection of the church and potential candidates, please keep your referral confidential. Once you submit his name to the committee, we will not be able to give you any updates on the status of his application or any other details about him within the process of the search. The one and only time we will be sharing a name with you is when we enter into Phase 4: Recommendation of Candidate to Congregation. If you have any questions about this, please feel free to reach out to one of the members of the PSC.

As we receive candidate applications, we will begin evaluating the applications, and will thus be in both Phase 2: Collection of Candidates and Phase 3: Evaluation of Candidates concurrently.

We need your prayers. We are so thankful that we have been able to rely upon you to pray with and for us, and ask for you to continue to do so daily.

Please specifically pray for:

- The PSC, that we would trust God throughout these next two phases as we humbly and gratefully receive applications from men who have been called by God to be shepherds of His flock. Pray that as we interact with these men, we would encourage them in their calling to love and serve God, and that God would direct and guide all of our paths. Also pray that God would grant us wisdom and discernment to evaluate well the applications that we receive.
- You, the congregation, that God would be working now in each of our hearts to draw us closer to Him in love and service, that our love for one another would increase, and that we would patiently wait upon the Lord's timing in establishing the next senior pastor at Carriage Lane.
- Our pastoral and support staff, our elders, and our deacons, that God would continue to bless them and encourage them in their work of service unto the Lord as they minister to us.
- The candidates, that although you will not know them by name, that you would be praying for the men who will apply and for their families, that the Lord will bless them in the ways He has currently called them, that they would patiently wait upon Him and His timing, and that God would grant them peace during this process, which can be long.

Thank you again for your faithful prayers and words of encouragement to us. May God be glorified during this process!

Grace and Peace,

The Pulpit Search Committee

Jeff Andrews, Erin Brooke, Craig Jeffery, Drake Osterhage\*, Jamie Pendergrass\*, Jeff Poling, Lindsay Pope, Ben Samuels, Caleb Sprinkel, Grace Swartz, and Katy Trygstad

*\*alternates*