



July 12, 2026

Pastor Search Team Update

Church,

I'm John Roberts, chair of the Pastor Search Team, and I'm joined by Cory Quarles, chair of the Council of Elders, with another update on our pastor search process. Last month, we shared that the Pastor Search Team were conducting:

- Additional interviews of a single candidate for our Senior Pastor position
- Continued sermon evaluation
- Background checks
- Calls to multiple references
- Leadership assessment
- Personal visits with the candidate and his current place of pastoral ministry
- And discussion on moving forward with a formal recommendation

As of today's update, those actions have now been completed and under the direction of the Holy Spirit and pursuant to our HNW bylaws, a formal recommendation of the next Senior Pastor for Houston Northwest Church has been presented to the Council of Elders for review and consideration.

On behalf of the Elder Council, we want to thank the Pastor Search Team for the many months of review, discussion, interviews, prayer, and discernment in support of their recommendation. Your Council of Elders are now in the prayerful and deliberate process under the guidance of the Holy Spirit to fully review and consider the recommendation provided by our Pastor Search Team. We ask for your faithful prayers and support as we work together with the Pastor Search Team to proceed through these final steps of the pastor search process. The spiritual discernment aspect of this important work takes time, and we are most appreciative of your persevering alongside us.

In conclusion, please continue to pray for the leadership of HNW, the staff, the Council of Elders, the candidate, and for unity within our church family as we work together to finalize this process and come before you with a recommendation for affirmation of the next Senior Pastor of Houston Northwest Church. To God be the Glory!

Sincerely,
The Pastor Search Team and Council of Elders



June 14, 2026

Pastor Search Team Update

Church,

In our last communication, we shared with you that we narrowed the field to one candidate for a deeper level of research and discernment.

This particular stage of the process includes:

- Additional interviews
- Continued sermon evaluation
- Background checks
- Calls to multiple references
- Leadership assessment
- Personal visits with the candidate/church visits
- And discussion on moving forward with a formal recommendation

As of today, this vetting process is still ongoing—all undergirded by continued prayer and the faithful guidance of the Holy Spirit. As it is the Pastor Search Team's responsibility to follow the HNW bylaws while also keeping in step with the Spirit, we encourage you to visit our church website so you can read about each phase of the calling of a new Senior Pastor.

Similar to other healthy systems of checks and balances, the Pastor Search Team is part of a collaborative effort of spiritual discernment that will eventually require approval by the Council of Elders, notifications to HNW staff and the deacon body, and ultimately a vote of affirmation by the church membership. In all of this, the highest goal is for our church family to reach unity in the Spirit for the next chapter of gospel mission at HNW.

While it has been said many times before, it bears repeating: The Pastor Search Team sincerely appreciates all of your prayers and encouragement. Please continue to pray for HNW's unity and protection, as well as our leadership and staff during this time. This is a process we walk through together with each of you, and we know this journey has likely demanded a level of patience, trust—and even painful emotions—you may not have expected. Because of that sacred tension, please remember you remain in our prayers, as well.

As we all wait patiently on the LORD while at the same time making steady progress, we can stand confident in this joyful truth from the Scriptures: He who began a good work in us promises to carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).

Sincerely,
The Pastor Search Team



HOUSTON NW CHURCH

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May 17, 2026

Pastor Search Team Update

Church,

Since our last update, the Lord has focused the team to do a deep level of discernment on a single candidate. Some of the activities happening during this phase of the process are:

- Currently conducting a background check.
- Starting interviews with references.
- Conducting next-level interviews and dialogue with the candidate.
- Visit to the candidate's church.
- Continue to seek the Lord for his discernment and direction.

Here is how you can pray for us:

- Pray that the Lord will guide the pastor search team to the Senior Pastor that He has selected.
- Pray for the Lord to prepare the heart of the next Senior Pastor to serve HNW.
- Pray for the unity and protection of HNW.

Many of you are praying consistently for the pastor search team, and please know that we sincerely appreciate and covet your prayers. Our goal has always been and continues to be to have the Holy Spirit go before us as we discern the man, He has selected to be the next Senior Pastor of Houston Northwest Church.

Sincerely,
The Pastor Search Team



April 12, 2026

Pastor Search Team Update

Church,

Since I last updated the church on March 8th, the Pastor Search Team has been in continued study and prayer, seeking direction from the Holy Spirit on further reducing the list of Senior Pastor Candidates. I can report that we have reduced our list to 3 qualified men we believe the Holy Spirit is leading us to further discern whether to recommend one of these men as the next Senior Pastor of Houston Northwest Church.

After countless hours of prayer, discussion, and discernment, I come before you today to also share that we are in unity of the Spirit that Pastor Kirk is not on our very short list of finalists for Senior Pastor. Out of respect and courtesy to Pastor Kirk, we have informed him of this difficult news. We have also informed the Elders, the staff, the deacons and the past Elders of this status update and now we are informing you. Each member of the Pastor Search Team accepted the task of discerning the Holy Spirit's direction in identifying the next Senior Pastor of Houston Northwest Church. The process has moved this team through a lot of prayer and discernment on a long list of qualified candidates, including Pastor Kirk. While my words cannot adequately capture how difficult this season of discernment has been at times—and while the team understands this is likely challenging news to receive regarding a man who we fully appreciate, value, and respect—please trust that we remain unified in our continued pursuit of discerning the man selected by the Holy Spirit for Houston Northwest Church.

Regarding our Pastor Kirk decision, some of you might naturally wonder “Why?”

Pastor Kirk is a gifted preacher. He is easy to love and he loves easily. He has and continues to serve Houston Northwest Church with honor, integrity, grace and love and we love him. Although I am not at liberty to share all the details of the search process, I can share that Pastor Kirk is well qualified and was very highly considered for the Senior Pastor position. Ultimately, after an extensive process of prayer, consideration, discussion, and discernment, he was just not the man who the Holy Spirit led us to call at this time as the Senior Pastor of Houston Northwest Church.

Please continue to pray for the Pastor Search Team and for what God has in store for Houston Northwest moving forward.

Sincerely,
The Pastor Search Team



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April 12, 2026

**Council of Elders Statement
Regarding Pastor Search Team and Pastor Kirk**

Church,

The Council of Elders along with the members of Houston Northwest Church have now received the recent update from the Pastor Search Team. The Elder Council wishes to thank and affirm the Pastor Search Team for their continued commitment in seeking direction from the Holy Spirit to determine the next Senior Pastor to be recommended for Houston Northwest.

We also want to thank Pastor Kirk for his gifted, courageous, and steadfast leadership during our time of transition to a new Senior Pastor. We are pleased to share that Pastor Kirk has graciously agreed to continue to serve in his current position as our Executive Pastor on an ongoing basis, and as acting Senior Pastor while the search for our Senior Pastor continues.

The Pastor Search Team still has work to do. Please continue praying that the Lord makes it clear to them who they should recommend as our next Senior Pastor.

Please pray for our staff and our congregation, that we remain united in Christ as we look forward to all that God has in store for us.

Thank you, Church for your continued participation, generosity, and support for the ministries and God's work here at Houston Northwest Church.

Sincerely,
The Council of Elders



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March 8, 2026

Pastor Search Team Update

Church,

Since our last update:

- We completed our review of all applications and through many hours of study, research, discussion and prayer we finalized a short list of applicants.
- We reached out to the short list candidates and confirmed their continued interest in the position of Senior Pastor.
- We finalized the survey of questions to get to know the short list candidates better and we sent it to them.
- We received the survey responses from the short list candidates and are reviewing them with the intent of finalizing an even shorter list.
- We completed our second-round interview of Pastor Kirk last week and are in prayer and discernment about his candidacy.
- We continue to discern next steps in seeking the Senior Pastor of HNW with the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Here is how you can pray for us:

- Pray that the Lord will guide the pastor search team to the Senior Pastor that He has selected.
- Pray for the Lord to prepare the heart of the next Senior Pastor to serve HNW.
- Pray for the unity and protection of HNW.

Many of you are praying consistently for the pastor search team and please know that we sincerely appreciate and covet your prayers. Our goal has always been and continues to be to have the Holy Spirit go before us as we discern the man, He has selected to be the next Senior Pastor of Houston Northwest Church.

Sincerely,
The Pastor Search Team



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February 8, 2026

Pastor Search Team Update

Church,

It has been a busy month. A lot has happened since our last update.

In the last month:

- We have received a large number of applications from many qualified men. The application window has now closed, and we are evaluating these applications for the Senior Pastor position.
- We are in the process of filtering through the applications to finalize a short list of candidates, and our goal is to complete the short list in the next month.
- On January 20, we conducted a first interview with Pastor Kirk, and we are in the process of scheduling a second-round interview with him in the coming weeks.
- At the same time, we plan on sending a survey of questions to our short list of external candidates in order to get to know them on a much deeper level than their resumes.
- We continue to discern next steps with the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Here is how you can pray for us:

- Pray that the Lord will work in the hearts and minds of the pastor search team, the congregation, and the man God is preparing to be our next Senior Pastor.
- Also, please pray for unity and protection of HNW as we follow God's direction.

Thank you for trusting us. We do not take this responsibility lightly and all seven of us are putting many hours each week into advancing the process and discerning God's will.

Sincerely,
The Pastor Search Team



January 11, 2026

Pastor Search Team Update

Church,

As the Pastor Search Team continues through the process you have entrusted to us, we have committed to provide you with an update the second Sunday of each month, to be transparent in the performing of the duties prescribed in our church's by-laws.

While the details of our activities will remain confidential, we want to assure you that we heed this responsibility with a deep sense of reverence. At the appropriate time, when the Holy Spirit reveals to this team the man He has chosen, the candidate will be presented first to the Council of Elders for approval, and then to the congregation for affirmation. You can find more information about this approval process in our by-laws on the HNW website.

As always, the team covets your prayers and would like to thank our church family for all the prayers and encouragements we have received as we intently seek the Lord's wisdom in discerning His good and perfect will for HNW.

Since our last update:

- We are re-posting the Senior Pastor position weekly (where possible) to keep it visible at the top of the listing sites, which has driven a renewed influx of applications. We will continue to repost weekly through the application deadline of January 15, 2026, and, as before, we will ensure applicants clearly understand HNW's mission and vision, core beliefs, DNA, and governing documents.
- We continue to screen the applications we receive and discern next steps with the direction of the Holy Spirit.
- We have finalized the candidate survey and interview questions and continue working through the other administrative activities required in the execution of the search process.

We ask that you continue to pray with us that the Lord will work in the hearts and in the minds of we the Pastor Search Team, you the congregation, and the man God is preparing to be our Shepherd, as well as his family. Specifically, that the Holy Spirit will bring unity and protection to the body as we follow God's direction and submit to His timeliness through this process. We honor the trust placed in us—while placing our full faith and trust in the One who lights the path ahead of us.

Sincerely,
The Pastor Search Team