

Discernment Process for Pastoral Leadership Transition Prayer Guide

Our desire throughout this process is to be thoughtful, transparent, and unified as we seek the Lord's guidance together. Here is the process that we defined together:

Prayer Gatherings: Sundays, 9:00-9:20AM in the Gallery Room: July 26, August 9, 16, 23, & 30

Our Prayer

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6

As a church family, we enter this discernment process with gratitude, humility, and expectation. We believe Jesus Christ is the Head of His Church, and we desire to follow His leading together. This guide is designed to help us unite in prayer during the coming weeks as we seek God's direction regarding the leadership transition before us.

A Path to Pray Throughout the Process

1. Pray for God's Will Above All Else

Ask God to make His will clear and to align our hearts with His purposes.

Scripture: Matthew 6:10; James 1:5

Prayer: Lord, help us desire Your will more than our preferences. Grant wisdom, clarity, and spiritual discernment as we seek Your direction for our church.

2. Pray for Unity Within the Church Family

Ask God to protect the fellowship and unity of the congregation throughout this process.

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-6; John 17:20-23

Prayer: Father, guard us from division, assumptions, and misunderstandings. Help us listen well, love one another deeply, and maintain the unity of Your Spirit in the bond of peace.

3. Pray for Pastor Kylan and His Family

Pray for wisdom, humility, courage, and peace as they walk through this season.

Scripture: Colossians 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 3:1-7

Prayer: Lord, bless Pastor Kylan and his family. Give them wisdom, discernment, and confidence in You. Protect them spiritually, emotionally, and physically during this process.

4. Pray for Pastor Hayden and His Family and Congo Church Leaders

Pray for the Bewley's to know their value and giftedness to the body of Christ. Bless their family by giving them peace, confidence and fruitfulness. Prayer for the Council, Trustees, Personnel Committee, other staff leaders, and all involved in facilitating the process.

Scripture: Isaiah 30:21; James 3:17

Prayer: God, grant our leaders wisdom that is pure, peace-loving, impartial, and sincere. Help them lead with integrity and faithfulness.

5. Pray for Humility and Open Hearts

Ask God to help each person listen to Him and remain open to His leading.

Scripture: Philippians 2:1-5

Prayer: Lord, remove pride, fear, and personal agendas. Give us teachable hearts and the willingness to follow wherever You lead.

6. Pray for the Future Ministry of First Congregational Church

Pray that God will continue to use the church to make disciples and advance His kingdom.

Scripture: Ephesians 3:20-21; Matthew 28:19-20

Prayer: Father, continue Your work through First Congregational Church. May our congregation faithfully proclaim Christ, serve our community, and become a growing witness to Your grace.

7. Pray for Pastor Jon and Stacey

Pray that God will continue to use their faithful work to build others up and advance His kingdom.

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Prayer: Father, continue Your work through Pastor Jon and Stacey. May our congregation faithfully band together to follow diligently the Jesus of the Bible the world needs to experience.

Key Dates

Sunday, August 2 – Vision Day

Pastor Kylan will share his vision for the future of First Congregational Church, including his leadership philosophy and strategic direction for the ministry.

Saturday, August 8

Council and Trustees Leadership Interview with Pastor Kylan Dubbels.

Wednesday, August 12 – Congregational Forums (Open to Everyone) Led by Laura Sheets

10:30-11:30 AM AND/OR 6:30-7:30 PM

These forums will provide an opportunity for the church family to ask questions, listen, and engage in meaningful discussion with Pastor Dubbels.

Sunday, August 16

Assuming the discernment process continues positively toward the recommendation, a formal written recommendation will be presented to the congregation, providing two additional weeks for prayerful consideration of the leadership transition before a congregational vote.

Sunday, August 30

We will have a ballot Congregational Vote to call Pastor Kylan Dubbels as the Lead Pastor.

If affirmed by the congregation, Pastor Kylan would begin serving as Lead Pastor on August 31.

This is more than an organizational decision. It is a shared spiritual discernment process. For more than twelve years, Pastor Kylan has faithfully served and demonstrated his love for Christ, his commitment to God's Word, and his heart for the people of this church. As we move forward together, we invite every member and person who counts First Congregational Church as their church home to participate through prayer, humility, and trust in God's leading.