

Community Bible Church

Pastor Search Prayer Guide

As all are aware, our beloved Pastor Val Chappell was called home by the LORD on November 3, 2021. Pastor Val served as our Senior Pastor for 18 years, faithfully teaching, preaching and shepherding God's family here at Community Bible Church.

We miss Val's presence more than words can describe. His life and ministry have truly impacted eternity and glorified God as he finished his race the way he began it – strong and committed to God's Word and His people.

Even in the midst of this year of painful separation and sorrow – we are praising God for having not just sustained CBC but grown our ministries and our congregation.

Our Elders have again stood guard over our church and the Gospel. They have held strong and steady throughout, providing care and leadership and an example of sacrificial servanthood to our beloved church family.

Heavenward Prayer Ministry has prepared this Pastor Search Prayer Guide as a means for our congregation to join together in praying for our

Elders and our church as we undertake the important work of finding a new pastor.

Although we do not know the man whom God is calling, the LORD knows him intimately and is preparing him, his family and our church to continue carrying out the mission of the Gospel together.

This guide will be available on line at www.cbcweb.org in our member resource section. There will also be printed copies available on the church information table.

Please consider joining the Connected Community gatherings on Wednesday morning via Zoom from 7:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. to pray specifically for our pastor search. You can access the credentials on the website in the member resources as well.

Thank you for being part of the important spiritual discipline of prayer for our church and pastor. God is faithful. If we seek Him we will find Him. If we ask Him, He will answer.

And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him.

~ 1 John 5:14-15

First Things First

Everyday

Focus: Cleansed hearts, renewed spirits, ready minds, effective prayer

~ Psalm 139:23-24

~ Psalm 51:10-13

~ 1 John 1:9.

Pray that all those directly involved in the pastor search process would remain close to the LORD **with hearts that are continually cleansed by Him.**

Pray that the Holy Spirit would **stir the entire congregation at CBC to be alert** to personal sin and areas of temptation or compromise and respond **with a spirit of repentance and humility before the LORD.**

Focus: Glorify God as we search for the man
He has called to pastor and shepherd our church.

~ Ephesians 3:20-21

Pray that **God would be glorified** through our CBC pastor search as together we seek Him in prayer and faith for the man He has called to pastor and shepherd our church.

Day by Day for Our Elders

Abiding

~ John 15:1-8

Pray for our **Elders to abide in Jesus** as they move through the pastor search process, **relying on God and His Word** in every interview, discussion and next step decision.

Wisdom

~ Proverbs 2:6-8

~ Matthew 6:33

~ Psalm 127:1

Pray for our **Elders to seek God's wisdom first and foremost** as they review resumes, prepare for each interview and make next step invitations to pastor candidates.

Discernment

~Philippians 1:9-10

Pray for **God to bless our Elders with discernment for each candidate** and their qualifications ~ that He would fill our Elder team with the **knowledge of His will** concerning each candidate and his family.

Patience

- ~ Psalm 130:5-6
- ~ Galatians 5:22-23
- ~ Colossians 1:11
- ~ Lamentations 3:25-26

Pray for our **Elders to continue to embrace God's timing** in His calling of our pastor. Pray that they would **experience patience with eager anticipation** as they keep pressing through each stage of the search process.

Trust

- ~ *Proverbs 3:5-6*
- ~ *Philippians 4:19*

Pray for our **Elders to steadfastly trust the LORD** as they undertake each step of the pastor search – that God will provide all that is needed, when it is needed and in the manner it is needed – **specifically wisdom, time, energy and discernment.**

Protection

- ~ Ephesians 6:10-11

Pray for **God's protection over our Elders** and their families with the knowledge that searching for a pastor is a spiritual work **which satan will assault in every way possible**, including **home, health, relationships, finances and workplace stresses and distractions.**

Peace

~ Philippians 4:6-7

~ John 16:33

Pray for the **peace of God** to permeate the **hearts and minds of our Elders** as they narrow down the pastor candidates and prepare for next steps in the search process.

Unity and Confirmation

~ Romans 15:5-6

~ Philippians 2:1-2

Pray for God to bless the Elders with a **strong sense of unity** and **one-mindedness** at each stage of the search process – giving them clear confirmation as they pray and deliberate.

Endurance

~ Galatians 6:9

Pray for our Elders to remain focused and energized in the pastor search process – ask the **LORD to bless them with His spiritual, mental, physical and emotional endurance.**

Day by Day for Our Church

Steadfast in God's Word

~ 1 Peter 1:13-25

~ Isaiah 55:10-11

Pray for our Elders and our congregation **to remain steadfast and daily anchored in God's Word** as we seek the LORD and learn to trust His Word more and more in all things.

Focused on the Gospel

~Romans 3:19-26

Pray for everyone in our church to remain focused on **knowing and sharing the Good News of the Gospel** - that Jesus came to save sinners from the just wrath of God - through His sinless life, His substitutionary death and His sovereign resurrection from the dead.

Love One Another Well

~ Ephesians 4:1-3

Pray that those who call CBC home would **seek to obey God's command to love one another** and maintain a spirit of unity as we prayerfully and practically support the pastor search process.

Pray that God would **give all at CBC a fullness of love for our pastor and his family – trusting God to have prepared the man of His choosing** to shepherd our church.

Remain close to the LORD

- ~ Romans 12:1-2
- ~ Psalm 25:4-5
- ~ Matthew 28:18-20

Pray for CBC to **reflect the attributes of a healthy, Gospel-centered church** in our teaching, preaching, prayer, worship, discipleship, fellowship and evangelism throughout the pastor search period.

Pray for **God's protection over our church** and its ministries in this season of searching. **Thank the LORD** for all He has done and is doing to **sustain the preaching of His Gospel** and the stability and health of His church at CBC.

Day by Day for Our Pastor

Committed to God's Word

- ~ 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- ~ John 4:23-24
- ~ 2 Timothy 2:15

Pray for our pastor to be **focused on preaching God's Word** out of the fullness of his gifts, study and devotion to the LORD in **spirit and in truth**.

Christlike Character

~ 1 Timothy 3:1-4

~ Galatians 2:20

Pray for our pastor to be a **man yielded to God, who exhibits authentic biblical character** – able to love and lead his family and our congregation in the manner Christ loves and leads His church.

Pastor's Family

~ Numbers 6:24-25

Pray for our **pastor's family** as they prayerfully consider and undertake the transition to our church, a new region and a new community.

Ask the **LORD to bless each family member with His peace and strength and comfort** as they make the necessary preparations.

Pray for our **pastor's wife** and the many details she will be facilitating to prepare her household for change. Ask the LORD to **strengthen her physically, emotionally and spiritually for the transition.**

Pray for the **pastor's children** – that the LORD would **comfort any sadness or fears** they may have in leaving their current home and community.

Courage and Endurance

~ Matthew 10:16-20

~ Colossians 1:24-29

Pray for our pastor to exhibit **God-given courage and endurance to preach and teach the whole counsel of God's Word** amidst a culture opposed and resistant to biblical truth.

Ask the LORD to **strengthen him for the days which are coming** – to possess the conviction to remain standing in the truth when the assaults on the church and the Word intensify.

Pastor's Ministry

~ Jeremiah 3:15

~ Philippians 4:19-20

Pray for the **ministry our pastor is departing – thanking God in advance** for His care and provision moving forward as **He keeps all His promises in all His works.**

Father God, we thank You for Your love and kindness, Your mercy and forgiveness which You have granted us through the blood of Jesus our Savior and LORD.

Father, we commit this pastor search into Your hands and trust You to lead and guide, to confirm and fill every decision and conversation with Your wisdom and discernment.

Please bless and help our Elders as they seek to know Your will and do Your will. Please help our church to remain focused on Your Gospel and to love one another well, especially during this time of important tasks and decisions. Help us hold fast to Your Word and to depend on You in every way.

May everything that is said and everything that is done result in fullness of glory in Your name and for Your honor in the church and in the hearts of Your people. We commit this season and ourselves back into Your hands and thank You for making us Your children.....in Jesus name. Amen.

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