

# Pastor Search Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. **Who will be preaching until a new lead pastor is hired?**

From January through June, a slate of pastors has been asked to fill the Sarasota Baptist pulpit each Sunday by Pastor Mike Landry. This includes our pastors on staff as well as other ministers from outside of the church. If the search process extends beyond June, then the chairmen of our deacons, personnel, finance and missions committees, along with staff pastors will work to find additional pastors to preach during the Sunday services.

All pastors filling the pulpit have the same biblical beliefs as held with the Southern Baptist Church as defined in The Baptist Faith and Message.

## 2. **Who is leading the church until a new lead pastor is hired?**

Each area of the church is overseen by a pastor or member of the church staff. The church will also continue working with the finance, personnel, missions, and benevolence committees that are composed of staff and lay members of the church to help run the business of the church.

The pastoral staff along with the chairs of the Deacons, Finance Committee, Missions and Personnel Committee will meet on a regular basis to pray for the church and review any issues that need to be addressed.

## 3. **Who is the decision maker for hiring of the new lead pastor?**

We believe that God already has the right man selected to become the next pastor of Sarasota Baptist Church and it is the job of the Lead Pastor Search Committee to prayerfully seek guidance from the Holy Spirit on who will fill this role. This committee will have the full authority to review resumés, call for interviews, and present the prospective new pastor to the church for a vote. The committee can seek advice from the church; however, all candidate information and the hiring process will remain confidential until the candidate is presented to the church for a vote.

**4. Will the committee update the church during the lead pastor search process?**

Due to the confidential nature of the work being performed by the committee and the confidentiality of candidates that may currently be serving at churches, all candidates names and any information about them will remain confidential until the prospective lead pastor is presented to the church. The committee will continue to update the church on their progress and ask for feedback and information to feed into the process as appropriate.

**5. How was the Lead Pastor Search Committee put together?**

Members and regular attenders of Sarasota Baptist were given 60 days to consider and pray for names that they would like to submit for serving on the committee. Nominees had to meet the following requirements as spelled out in our church bylaws (Article X Section f):

An active member for a minimum of three years

Must be committed to the Membership Covenant of Sarasota Baptist Church

Must be a regular attender of a weekly connect group and weekly worship service; must tithe on a regular basis.

Must be personally committed to connecting people to Jesus.

These names were then given to the Deacon body to prayerfully consider the names submitted. From the names a committee of 7 members and two alternates were selected to serve as the group to identify and present the next Lead Pastor for church vote.

**6. What can I, as a member or attender of Sarasota Baptist Church, do until a new Lead Pastor is hired?**

The same as our membership has done in the past. This is to support our church with prayers, gifts, and service. As the committee continues their search, pray for the members of the committee and their desire to seek God's direction in the hiring process. The Devil would like to use this time to cause chaos in our church, but we as God's chosen people must remain prayerful and seeking God's will for our church.

7. **We understand Pastor Mike arranged for pastors to preach on Sunday mornings through June. Were those persons chosen as candidates for the lead pastor position?**

While it's possible some will be candidates, Pastor Mike's purpose in asking these pastors to preach was because he thought they would relate well and would cast vision for the church, including encouraging us to continue to be active, engaged and growing during this interim time.

8. **Will the congregation get to hear the Committee's recommended candidate preach before the members vote?**

Yes