

Congregational Conversation #1

First Baptist Church, Greenville, SC

January 22, 2023

David Hull



Senior Minister Search Committee

Doug Girvin, Chair

Pat Booker-Christy

Ralph Bouton

Pam Davis

Deb Richardson-Moore

Leslie Rodwell

Kevin Treu



Our Mission:

CHC is devoted to improving the spiritual, emotional and organizational health of churches and ministers. We bring hope, help and healing in the spirit of Christ.

www.chchurches.org

David Hull

- 34 years as a pastor
- Burks Branch Baptist Shelbyville, KY 1980-1982
- Candlewyck Baptist Charlotte, NC 1982-1986
- First Baptist Laurens, SC 1986-1993
- First Baptist Knoxville, TN 1993-2002
- First Baptist Huntsville, AL 2002-2014



David Hull

- CHC ministry of helping churches in transition
- Interim pastor of the First Baptist Churches in St. Petersburg, FL, Augusta, GA, Gainesville, GA, Burlington, NC and Laurens, SC
- Associate Pastor at Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist in Atlanta, GA
- Adjunct professor at McAfee School of Theology (Mercer)
- Wife is Jane. Children are Emily and Andrew. Grandchildren are Liam (10), Annabelle (7) and Silas (6)



This is what you really need to know about me!

So, what is a healthy church?

CHC's definition of a healthy church:

***A healthy church is
a community of Jesus followers
with
shared vision,
thriving ministry
and
trusted leadership.***

A Healthy Senior Minister Search Process

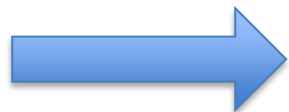
- This is a spiritual exercise, not an HR (human resources) process
- A healthy search blends elements of the Past, the Present and the Future
- The search process is more relational than transactional
- Practicing Spiritual Discernment is much more difficult than talking about it



First Baptist
Greenville

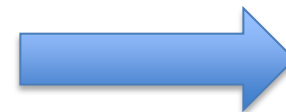
Spiritual Discernment

Human
decision-
making



Ignatius' idea of
Holy
Indifference:

*"I am indifferent to anything
but God's will"*



Discerning
God's
Divine Will



Mary's Prayer
Luke 1

*"Let it be to me according
to your word..."*

Jesus' Prayer
Luke 22

*"...not my will but yours be
done."*

The Spirit of INDIFFERENCE

God's Will

Nothing more

Nothing else

Nothing less

- 1. Is there anything I need to set aside so that I can be open to what God wants?
- 2. What needs to die in me in order for God's will to come forth in my life?

The 2nd
Prayer:
the Prayer
for WISDOM

“If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly and it will be given you.”

James 1:5

The essential
shift...

*How do we move from praying for
what we WANT
to praying for what we NEED?*

What is the transition process?

- Phase 1 - Preparation: Selecting a Senior Minister Search Committee and a Guide
- Phase 2 - Self-study: Laying the Foundation with Preparation
- Phase 3 – Profile writing
- Phase 4 - Active Search: Consider candidates, Contact/Interview/Discern/Call

The Congregational Self-Study

Three congregational
conversations:

- **One dealing with the PAST**
 - How did we get here?
 - What is our congregational DNA?
 - What are the core positives of our church?

The Congregational Self-Study

Three congregational
conversations:

- **One dealing with the
PRESENT**
 - What is the current
status of our church?
 - What is our ministry
context?

The Congregational Self-Study

Three congregational
conversations:

- **One dealing with the FUTURE**
 - What is our shared mission/vision as a church?
 - What kind of pastor does that imply that we should look for?

The First Baptist Congregational Self-Study

- Two outcomes will emerge from the Self-Study:
 - A **CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE** that accurately describes your church, its history, current reality, and future orientation.
 - A **PASTOR PROFILE** that broadly describes the type of pastor you believe God intends to lead you into the next season of life as a church

Our work will unfold around three primary congregational conversations over several weeks.

- **Today:** Let's look at our **PAST**. Where did we come from? What do we bring with us as we face the future?
- **February 5:** Let's look at where we are **TODAY**. How do we accurately describe our congregation? Our ministry context?
- **February 26:** Let's look into the **FUTURE**. Where do we sense God leading us as a church? What/who do we sense our next pastor will need to do/be? What do we discern are the essential traits and qualities of that person?

Purpose of today's conversation:

To share the stories of our personal history with the church and learn how our experiences describe who First Baptist is and where the church is going in the future.

Conversation around the tables

Take the Response Sheet on your table and look at the first question.

What attracted you to First Baptist Church?

Take a few moments and write out your answer.



Once everyone has written for a moment, share around the tables what brought you to First Baptist Church.

Conversation around the tables

What kept you engaged in FBC?

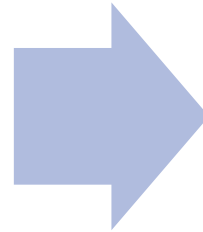
On the same Response Sheet, write out a 1-3 word summary of your answer.

Share at the tables after you have written your answers.

Conversation around the tables

Write on the back of your Response Sheet

- *When did this church become THE CHURCH for YOU? What was the essence of that experience?*
- *What traits or values did the church show in that experience? Please list 1-3 core traits.*



As a table group, discuss and list the core traits that helped make your stories possible. Note the top 3-5 traits at your table.

Thank you for
your input!

The next conversation will be Sunday afternoon, February 5, at 3:30 p.m. We will share a summary of the feedback that you have given, and we will then talk about the opportunities and challenges of ministry with First Baptist TODAY.



Senior Minister Search

Welcome!

Transparency is a fundamental principle of the Senior Minister Search Committee at First Baptist Greenville. To that end, the committee will be providing resources at this site throughout the process. Please check here often for announcements, updates, and opportunities to participate. There is much more to come!



CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Three independent congregational conversations will be held in the Fellowship Hall on the following dates and times:

- Sunday, January 22—3:30-5:00pm
- Sunday, February 5—3:30-5:00pm
- Sunday, February 26—3:30-5:00pm

These conversations will focus on our church's past, present, and future, respectively, as we develop a *congregational profile*—capturing who we are as a church family, and a *pastor profile*—capturing the qualities that we as a church believe would make the perfect match in our new senior minister. When completed, these documents will be shared here at this site and elsewhere.

The conversations are designed to build on each other, so we invite you to attend all three. However, if you have a conflict or two, please plan to attend as many as possible. *Everyone* will have a chance to talk and to be listened to. Childcare will be provided for ages birth through 5th grade.

We want to hear from our youth as well! Please stay tuned for information about a separate set of youth conversations also.

Please mark your calendars for these special and important events, so that our church family can benefit from your wisdom and insight.

SENIOR PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Pat Booker-Christy

Ralph Bouton

Pam Davis

Doug Girvin, Chair

Deb Richardson-Moore

Leslie Rodwell

Kevin Treu



Pat has been a member of FBG for 15 years and during this time has been on multiple committees. She has served as a deacon and most recently as a Foundation Trustee. She is a member of the Johnson class in which she is one of its teachers. She is also a Stephen Minister.

CONTACT US

You can contact the committee members at any time via the email address seniorministersearchcommittee@gmail.com, or the following form. Your ideas, feedback and suggestions are always welcome.



seniorministersearchcommittee@gmail.com

Name *(Required)*

First

Last

Email *(Required)*

Comment *(Required)*

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