

From the Senior Minister Search Committee

*Guided by a profound sense of enthusiasm and tranquility
inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Senior Minister Search Committee presents
to you our unanimous nominee for the position of Senior Minister:
Reverend Dr. Carol McEntyre.*

When we undertook the honor and privilege of this task together just over a year ago, we were taught an intriguing new term by our mentor and friend David Hull – holy indifference. This seemingly contradictory phrase captures the challenge of seeking God’s will with a single-minded focus that is indifferent to individual whims and preconceived worldly notions. This principle of holy indifference has been a foundation of our journey.

One of the profound joys of being human is experiencing and recognizing occasional “God moments” – when the presence of the Holy Spirit is felt, keenly and undeniably. We, as a committee, have been blessed by many such moments along the way. Many of them were facilitated by you, our sisters and brothers in Christ. In the many kind and supportive words that you shared with us, the lively and insightful congregational conversations, and your uplifting prayers, we felt the presence of God. We are eternally grateful to you for your steadfast commitment to our church during this time of discernment and always.

Our interactions with Carol, both direct and indirect, have been infused with God moments as well. Through all the steps of the search process, both significant and mundane, we have been guided by the Spirit towards Carol as the person we believe God is calling to First Baptist Greenville. In moments of animated discussion, as well as in times of contemplation, study, and reflection, we have been energized by what God has revealed to our hearts and minds about her, her ministry, and her belonging at FBG.

Carol is deeply thoughtful and pastoral. She is an experienced and intellectual preacher with a style that is relatable and challenging. Moreover, she is reflective and courageous, willing and able to delve deftly into challenging theological topics. Under her guidance, people with different backgrounds and viewpoints

feel heard, and all voices are included. In her 11 years at First Baptist Church in Columbia, Missouri, she has honed an ability to minister to the needs of, and provide pastoral care to a congregation like ours. She has a gift for recognizing the talents in all and building theological unity of spirit among people with varying perspectives. She has a powerful community-facing presence in both the larger Baptist community through her leadership in the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and in the community overall, which makes her an excellent fit for First Baptist Greenville. Moreover, Carol is strikingly personable, approachable, and authentic. We feel in our hearts that God is truly calling us together in this place and time.

We are honored and grateful for this opportunity to serve, and humbled by your trust. We look forward to the bright future that God has in store for our church and ask that you join us in affirming Carol’s call to be our next Senior Minister.



Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre



Doctor of Ministry, 2019

Drew University, Madison, NJ

Master of Divinity and Master of Social Work, 2003

George W. Truett Theological Seminary and Baylor University, Waco, TX

Bachelor of Arts Human Services\Psychology, 1999

Carson-Newman University, Jefferson City, TN

Experience

Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church
2012-Present, Columbia, MO

Community Minister, First Baptist Church
2006-2012, Knoxville, TN

Minister to University Students, First Baptist Church
2005-2006, Knoxville, TN

Education Minister, Church of the Holy Comforter
2004-2005, Augusta, GA

Recent Professional Involvement

Moderator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship Governing Board Member
Baptist Women in Ministry Mentor for first-call female pastors
Baptist Women in Ministry Board Member
Thriving For Racial Justice Cohort, Alliance of Baptist

Recent Community Involvement

Opportunity Center Campus Steering Committee working
to create a permanent homeless shelter Columbia, MO
Board Member, Voluntary Action Center Columbia, MO

From Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre

Dear First Baptist,

Belonging, an innate human need, is not just an individual yearning but a fundamental necessity for thriving congregational life. Belonging is the theme that FBG's staff has chosen for this year, a thoughtful focus for this time of new beginnings and a vital message for today when many people are lonely and longing for connection. The gift of belonging is one the church is called to share.

I believe the purpose of the church is to form Christlike disciples within an authentic community for the good of the world. Authentic communities are sanctuaries of belonging, where individuals can find space to discover their true selves without fear of rejection. First Baptist Greenville's commitment to creating a place that does not discriminate, a place of wholehearted embrace and belonging, was one of the reasons that I was drawn to your congregation. I admire your aspiration to extend that sphere of belonging into Greenville, leveraging your voice and influence to foster a more just and equitable community. Your church echoes Christ's reflection of the Greatest Commandment through your worship of God and the many ways you work to help heal our fractured world. I also appreciate FBG's thoughtful, progressive theology, which exemplifies your commitment to forming Christlike disciples. These values resonate with how I understand God's love and the Church's call to serve in the world and sparked my interest in serving as your pastor. The seeds for the upcoming call weekend were planted some time ago through your church's admirable work, the Spirit's nudge, and my husband's insight. I hope to share more of that story soon.

For the last 11 years, I have served as the Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church in Columbia, Missouri, a beautiful congregation filled with people I believe you would enjoy. Their courage and commitment to Christ have shaped the pastor I have become. Without God's prompting, my family and I would not be willing to take this step to leave such a wonderful congregation.

Throughout this time of discernment, your search committee has represented you well with authenticity, warmth, and competence. I have been delighted to get to know the committee members individually and collectively. During my initial interview with the search committee in July, I felt an immediate connection despite the virtual setting. Our interactions throughout this process affirmed my admiration for FBG and the Spirit's call to move forward. As such, and for all these reasons I have mentioned and more, I am profoundly honored to be considered as the candidate for your next Senior Pastor.

As I eagerly anticipate our upcoming call weekend, I will be reflecting on Romans 12:4-5: "...in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." This scripture encapsulates the essence of our shared identity as believers. We are siblings, family, a holy kin-dom if you will. This foundational bond is the bedrock of our belonging, even though we don't yet know each other. With the excitement of meeting new family members, I look forward to the call weekend and the chance to meet you and begin our journey toward belonging to one another.

With Joy and Hope,

Carol McEntyre



“Carol is a deeply thoughtful minister. She is grounded in Scripture, sophisticated in her theology, prophetic in her preaching, patient in her approach, and intentional in her leadership. A pastor who loves and appreciates people, Carol is able to relate to people of all different backgrounds and perspectives.”

*Rev. Dr. Austin Carty, Senior Pastor,
Boulevard Baptist Church, Anderson, SC*

“I am delighted by the movement of the Spirit in bringing together First Baptist Church and Carol McEntyre. Carol is a welcoming and grace-filled pastor, a passionate and thoughtful preacher, and a collaborative and invitational leader. In her years of ministry, she has served with compassion and joy, extending kindness, and offering spiritual guidance to all those she encounters but especially to those who are hurting or in need of hope. I joyfully celebrate this new work of the Spirit at First Baptist.”

*Pam Durso, president,
Central Seminary, Shawnee, Kansas*

“Carol McEntyre is an exceptionally gifted pastor, preacher, and leader. She is a person of deep faith who loves Christ and the church. Her training both in theology and social work uniquely equips her not only to preach and care for people, but also to understand congregations as larger systems. She has a unique capacity to build the healthiest congregational cultures through shared faith and healthy processes that elevate the gifts of people in the congregation while also amplifying its witness in the community and beyond. I believe Carol, your ministerial staff and the congregation of First Baptist Greenville will thrive as you serve together in the years to come.”

*Dr. Paul Baxley, Executive Coordinator,
Cooperative Baptist Fellowship*

“Rev. Dr. Carol McEntyre is an exemplar among 21st century Baptist pastors. Carol has a unique ability to see hurt, brokenness, and injustice in the world, and discern how the people of God should respond. She preaches and leads from a depth of contemplative relationship with God which demonstrates deep wisdom and compassion. Her thoughtful and strategic leadership has served the broader Baptist community for many years, and will be a true gift to the congregation at FBC Greenville.”

*Dr. Meredith Stone, Executive Director,
Baptist Women in Ministry*



Carol and her husband, Michael, have been partners in ministry and marriage for 25 years. Michael has a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary and has served on staff with Carol as the Pastor of Administration, Youth, and Missions at First Baptist Columbia, MO, for the past 11 years. They are the proud parents of Nate (13) and Marin (8). The McEntyres enjoy time with family, making memories together, being outdoors, and exploring state and national parks in their pop-up camper. They also love to travel together and took a bucket list trip to the Amazon rainforest and the Galapagos Islands in May.





Senior Minister Call Weekend

Saturday, September 30

3:00 PM - 5:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

3:00 PM Q&A with Carol

4:00 PM Meet & Greet with Carol

Sunday, October 1

9:00 AM - 10:15 AM | Fellowship Hall

Mini Meet & Greet with Carol

10:30 AM | Sanctuary

Worship followed by Called Church Conference

12:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Reception for Carol & Family



First Baptist Greenville | 847 Cleveland Street, Greenville, SC 29601