

PASTOR PROFILE

The Fernwood Baptist Church is looking for a pastor who will lead our congregation and staff into the center of God's will for our church. We want our members and visitors to find a real relationship with Jesus and have the support and tools they need to take that relationship out into the world.

Our church staff and Deacons are highly committed and capable to assist and work alongside the pastor in many aspects of teaching, personal counseling, visitations, and other events in the lives of our members and the community.

We pray that our next pastor will enhance the existing culture of our church by bringing a collaborative leadership style that empowers the staff and engages the congregation in planning and ministry.

We are seeking a pastor who will preach and teach from a biblical perspective. We believe that we are the hands and feet of Christ as we serve our community, and our pastor will lead the congregation to engage in local, regional, and world-wide missions. We strive to live up to our vision statement, ***"To be Christ to each other and the community, doing justice, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God."*** We aspire to grow as a congregation, attracting new members who desire to develop spiritually and serve as disciples of Christ.

Therefore, after much prayer and several church-wide meetings, we believe the following describes the most important **qualities** we are looking for in the next pastor of the Fernwood Baptist Church.

1. SPIRITUAL

- a. Must have a personal relationship with Christ.
- b. Must be spiritually mature. Their relationship with God is discernable as the Fruit of the Spirit – love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).
- c. Eager to serve others and care for the poor and marginalized in society (as described in the so-called "Judgement of the Nations" passage – Matthew 25:31-46).
- d. Knowledgeable about the Bible
- e. Knowledgeable of traditional mainline Christian doctrine in the progressive theological context of the twenty-first century as well as historic Baptist principles.
- f. Progressive on the following issues.
 - i. Open and welcoming to LGBTQ+
 - ii. Anyone is eligible for all levels of leadership (including pastor)
 - iii. View of scripture – scholarly (i.e., informed).
 - iv. Supportive of the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.

2. PERSONAL

- a. Enthusiastic
- b. High integrity
- c. Experienced – ideally with churches facing challenges (growth, staying relevant, limited resources, etc.)
- d. Emotionally mature.

3. PRACTICAL

- a. Strong leadership qualities – but also motivated by a strong desire to work collaboratively.
- b. Consensus Builder – can articulate and defend a vision with energy and confidence, but ultimately, to work towards a consensus.
- c. Good at management and budgetary issues
- d. Trained and experienced in pastoral care – the shepherd of the flock
- e. Good communicator
 - i. Must be able to explain God’s Word and teach with authority
 - ii. Good preaching essential – must be a good “proclaimer”
We value what some theologians have called preaching “with the Bible in one hand and the newspaper in the other”. This idea emphasizes the importance of both scripture and current events in shaping relevant and meaningful sermons. Please note that this is not the same as *politically motivated* preaching.