

## **Announcement #3**

### *February 12<sup>th</sup> Update*

We are committed to faithfully and frequently communicate to you on the progress that your Elder's board has made in our Lead Pastor Search.

When we updated you last month, it was announced that we had engaged Steve Adams to lead and advise us through our pastoral search. Our first meeting with the Staff, Elders and Steve was held on Saturday January 21st. The information from that session presented at our Board Meeting last Wednesday.

On February 21<sup>st</sup>, Steve will be personally meeting with all our ministry staff. These interviews, in conjunction with "on line questionnaires" will assist to develop a deeper understanding of everyone's giftedness, strengths, potential and goals.

Next, a selection of key stakeholders, and Westpark "lay leadership," will be asked to provide their input into the process.

Finally, Steve will be soliciting data and information from the congregation. All of this ground work is to create a profile for the individual God is directing to us as our next "Lead Pastor."

The data from all these interactions will be communicated back to the board, the staff, the leadership and the congregation.

Lord willing, as we continue to forge ahead, we trust that the search will officially kick off May 14<sup>th</sup>. At that time, a congregation wide 30-day prayer initiative will be implemented to seek God's direction in support our search.

**There's two other topics that I'd quickly like to address:**

**The first is financial:**

During this time of transition and change, it is not uncommon for some of you to experience feelings of uncertainty or anxiousness of what we don't know. Be reminded that God is sovereign, He continues to sit on His throne and He remains forever in control. You need to know that in the first few months of our fiscal year, our giving has been trending down. I'd just like to encourage you to continue to be generous in your giving, especially during this time of change.

**Second, I'd like to acknowledge our staff.**

Church, we are blessed.

We are rightly appreciative of how God has used Charles and Sherryl over these last years but we cannot minimize the contribution of so many others. WestPark is the church we are because of how God has accomplished His purposes through the gifting of many servants in this church body in many areas of ministry, both staff and volunteers.....

But today, I need to highlight our executive staff. God has gifted Neil, Corey and Kevin in incredible ways. Although they are not candidates for the Lead Pastor role, they continue to bless us daily. Whether through pastoring, shepherding, worship, teaching, mentoring or preaching, WestPark could not confidently move forward through this transition without their leadership, commitment and time and attitude. God continues to hone their gifts and talents for our benefit and for His glory. **When given the opportunity, express your appreciation.**

Please continue to hold us in prayer as we move forward in this important work.

Sincerely,

Dan Bird, Elder Board Chair