

# WOODWARD PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

September 15, 2009

## A Letter from your Pastor Search Committee

Church Family,

**In August of 2008 the members of Woodward Park Baptist Church elected us to serve on the Pastor Search Committee.** We have spent countless hours praying, studying, planning, evaluating, interviewing, investigating, and seeking God's will in the matter of a new leader for our church. We know you have been praying and seeking God's will as well. Thank you for your prayers, support, patience, and encouragement.

**We are writing to update you on the status of our efforts.** For more than a year we have been prayerfully and diligently seeking a candidate to present to you who personifies our profile of a **spirit-filled leader, a compassionate pastor, and a passionate preacher.**

**We are currently working with one candidate that we unanimously believe God has directed us to consider.** The candidate is still committed to working with us. We are confident that this candidate fully meets the profile we developed. He is currently ministering at another church in California, where he has been faithfully serving for over 14 years.

**If all goes according to schedule we look forward to presenting the candidate to you in October.** He has asked that his identity remain confidential until late October, because of his duties and responsibilities at his current church. We are all excited and would love to be able to make more detailed announcements right now, but we need to respect the desires of the candidate.

**If the Lord continues to work out the details, we expect to present the name and personal information about the candidate to you toward the middle of October.** He and his family would come to our church for a visit a week or two later. We will be planning several opportunities for our entire church family to meet and get acquainted with the candidate and his family.

**The candidate and his family will return for a second visit probably in November.** We will invite the entire church to come to a special time of fellowship, questions, answers, and prayer. He will then preach during our Sunday services. That evening church members will pray together and then vote whether we believe God is directing us to call the candidate as our new senior pastor. If the church votes to call the candidate, he will then have the opportunity to respond with a "yes" or a "no" to our call.

**So, you can see that there is still much to pray about.** Until the church votes to call the candidate and he says, "yes" we will not have a new senior pastor. And even if we call him and he agrees to come it will probably take several weeks to relocate to Fresno. We expect he could be on the field by the first of the year if the church calls him and he agrees to come.

As we plan the calendar and events to introduce him to you we are trying to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to get acquainted with the candidate and his family. We are also trying to ensure that the church has adequate time to pray individually and together, so we each can reflect on what God is saying. The ultimate decision will be yours.

Please continue to pray for the candidate and for our church as we move forward to the next steps. And remember, God is in charge and is at work in our church. He has much to accomplish through Dr. Paden, our staff, our leadership team and each of you even before our new senior pastor arrives.

Let's ask Him to pour out His Spirit on us this fall, so that whenever our new senior pastor comes he can rejoice in God's goodness with us.

**In His Service,**

**Rich Johnstone, Jim Graham, John Lacaze, Jane Gross, and Philip Kell**