



# Pastor Nominating Committee August Update



**FAITHFULLY FOCUSED**



# Valley Presbyterian Church | Senior Pastor Search Update

## Dear Valley Presbyterian Church Family,

As we continue to journey through this important season of transition for our church, we have pledged to keep you informed about the process and share some exciting updates regarding our search for our next Senior Pastor.

### Update on Pastor David Joynt's Retirement:

At the 2025 Annual Meeting on February 2, Pastor David Joynt announced his retirement, which will take place upon the call and arrival of our new Lead Pastor. Since then, Pastor Joynt has graciously communicated his flexibility and commitment to serving the church until the new Senior Pastor accepts the call, or by April 26, 2026, whichever comes first. We are so very thankful for Pastor Joynt's leadership and ask that you continue to pray for him as he finishes his ministry here. Please also pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) as they work through this process of seeking his successor.

Pastor Joynt has shared that, "VPC has been and is a place of great joy to do ministry for me, and I know it will continue to be for our entire team and for the next Senior Pastor."

### Partnership with Slingshot Group

We are thrilled to partner with Slingshot Group, a trusted staffing and search firm, to help us identify and call the next Senior Pastor for VPC. Their expertise in church leadership recruitment and experience working with churches of our size and culture will guide us through a thoughtful, prayerful, and strategic search process.

Slingshot Group will work closely with our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to ensure that we find a pastor whose gifts, heart, and vision align with VPC's mission and values. They will be helping us with candidate identification, interviews, and guiding our church through a process that values unity and prayer.

### Meet Our Search Associate: Chris Lawson

We are excited to introduce Chris Lawson, our Executive Search Partner from Slingshot Group. Chris will be working alongside the PNC to provide guidance, expertise, and support during the search process.

Chris believes that the local church is the hope of the world and has been effectively serving local churches since 1999 as an executive leader where he has overseen coaching, staff development, and campus expansion at both his current church and churches across the country. In addition to his Slingshot role connecting executive leaders to their next season of calling, he also serves as Executive Pastor of Reynolda Church in North Carolina.

### Next Key Steps in the Process

We believe that transparency and communication are key in this process, so here's a breakdown of what's coming up:

- 1. Monthly Updates:** The PNC will continue to provide regular updates to the congregation as the search progresses, either directly to the congregation or through written communication.
- 2. Open Forums and Special Invitation Meetings with Chris Lawson:** We invite you to come and share your hopes and dreams for VPC's future as we seek our next Senior Pastor. These forums and scheduled meetings are a chance for you to engage with Chris Lawson from Slingshot Group. He welcomes your feedback! Please join us at one of the following Open Forums:
  - o Thursday, August 21, 5PM, Room B106
  - o Saturday, August 23, 9AM, Room B106
- 3. Official Public Launch by September 2<sup>nd</sup>:** We plan to officially launch the search for our next Senior Pastor by September 2<sup>nd</sup>, with full details to be shared at that time.

### Prayer Points for the Search

We ask you to please keep the following prayer points in your hearts as we move forward with the search:

- 1. For the Next Senior Pastor:** Pray that God will guide and prepare the heart of our next Senior Pastor who will lead us into the next exciting season for our beloved church.
- 2. For the Pastor Nominating Committee:** Pray for wisdom, discernment, and unity as they lead this search process.
- 3. For Unity in the Church Body:** Pray that VPC remains united in purpose, peace, and vision as we seek God's will for this important appointment.
- 4. For God to Speak Clearly:** Pray that God will make His will known to all involved, from the PNC to the candidates to all in our church, so we can confidently move forward toward welcoming our new Pastor.

We are excited to see how God will provide for VPC in this new season. Your prayers, support, and engagement in the process are invaluable as we seek God's guidance. Thank you for being part of this important time in the life of our church!

In Christ,  
**The Pastor Nominating Committee**  
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