Congregational Prayer Guide

Thirty days of devotion during our senior pastor search

November 12 through December 11 2026

An invitation to our church family

Throughout our search, the daily reading in the Pastor Search Committee Devotional Guide from the Baptist General Convention of Texas has been a helpful source of encouragement and spiritual direction for our committee. As our pastor search committee closes the period for receiving new resumes on November 11 and we move into the final phase of candidate review, we wanted to give our whole church family an opportunity to join us in prayer for 30 days. The Pastor Search Committee put this guide together for that purpose, with each of our seven members contributing the daily prayers for our congregation to pray together. This guide focuses on church unity, trusting God's sovereignty, and seeking His wisdom and discernment for our committee, ministry staff, and church members.

Each of us has a part in this season. We can examine our own hearts, encourage those serving, protect our fellowship, and remain faithful in the ministries God has entrusted to us. Our shared devotion can help prepare us to receive future pastoral leadership with humility and love.

Using this guide

Set aside a few quiet minutes each day. Read the Scripture passage, consider the devotional, and reflect on the question. Close with the prayer provided, knowing that each day, our church family is lifting a shared prayer to our Heavenly Father as we seek His guidance in calling our next pastor.

The three themes are woven throughout the month. Continue remembering our committee, ministry staff, and church family as you read.

Adapted from the Pastor Search Committee Devotional Guide. Scripture passages are reproduced as they appear in that guide. These devotionals apply biblical wisdom to our shared responsibilities during the search.

DAY 1 | November 12, 2026

Starting with the Right Foundation

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture

Proverbs 9:10 - "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding"

Devotional

As we begin this month of prayer, our first task is to turn our hearts toward God. Reverence for Him shapes how we listen, speak, and understand our church's needs. Each of us brings hopes for our next senior pastor. We can offer those hopes honestly while remaining willing to have them examined by Scripture. This search belongs within the larger work of following Christ together. Our committee needs wisdom, our ministry staff needs strength, and our congregation needs teachable hearts. We all participate by seeking God's will and faithfully serving where He has placed us.

Personal reflection

What expectation about our next pastor do I need to surrender to God as this month begins?

Prayer

Father, I come humbly to you asking for wisdom and guidance for our search committee and for all of us who consider FBC Plano our church home. We acknowledge that you are sovereign in all your ways. I lay down my personal check list, expectations, and preferences regarding our next pastor. Give me a heart that seeks you and your will above all else. By grace, I want to trust your faithfulness, guidance, and provision. Show us your will. I love watching you work. Amen.

DAY 2 | November 13, 2026

Working Together as a Team

Church unity

Scripture

Proverbs 13:20 - "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed"

Devotional

The search committee has a particular assignment, but the whole church shares responsibility for the health of our fellowship. Our conversations, choices, and encouragement affect the people carrying this work. Walking with wise believers helps us see beyond our own concerns and remember our common purpose in Christ. We can contribute by listening to one another, supporting ongoing ministry, and treating those with different preferences as beloved members of the same church family. Unity grows as we practice faithfulness together in ordinary moments, including those when no decision or announcement is ready.

Personal reflection

How can I contribute to the spiritual health of our church family this week?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for uniting our church in faithfulness to you. Protect the unity of our search committee and our congregation as we search for the next pastor. Bind us together to seek your will above our personal preferences. Help us to work through disagreements in love. Let us be contributors to unity rather than division. Amen

DAY 3 | November 14, 2026

Trust with All Your Heart

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture

Proverbs 3:5-8 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones"

Devotional

Uncertainty can make us reach for control. We may imagine that enough information, a particular timeline, or the right personality will settle every concern. Proverbs invites us to trust the Lord with our whole hearts and acknowledge Him in all our ways. That trust includes bringing Him our questions and allowing Scripture to challenge our assumptions. Our committee must evaluate candidates carefully, and our staff must continue leading ministry. As a congregation, we can support their work while placing our confidence in God's character. He remains worthy of our trust throughout the search.

Personal reflection

Where am I leaning most heavily on my own understanding of what our church needs?

Prayer

Dear Lord, we thank you for our church and we pray for all members, especially those who have been tasked to discern Your choice for our next Senior Pastor. We know that You have already chosen the right person to lead us into the next phase of our growth in Plano and our mission to spread Your word throughout the world. Give us all patience Father as this process moves forward and remind us daily that it is not in our time, but in Yours that we find our next leader. Help us to continue with the unity and love for each other that has been a steadfast part of our church through the many years of our existence. And Lord, remind us all that our trust is in You and not in our own understanding. We ask this prayer in the name of Christ Jesus. Amen.

DAY 4 | November 15, 2026

Hunger for Understanding

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture

Proverbs 2:3-5 - "Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding, if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God"

Devotional

Wisdom is worth seeking with sustained attention. The image of searching for treasure challenges us to move beyond occasional concern into intentional devotion. During this month, we can make room to read Scripture, consider what it reveals, and seek understanding together. Ask God to deepen the discernment of those reviewing resumes and speaking with candidates. Remember our ministry staff as they make daily decisions, and our members as they consider the church's future. We also need wisdom in our own responses. A congregation that hungers for understanding will be better prepared to listen carefully and act faithfully.

Personal reflection

What practical change would help me seek God's wisdom more intentionally during these 30 days?

Prayer

Lord, give me a heart that seeks Your wisdom and guidance throughout this process. Help us look beyond the surface and discern the person You have chosen to lead our church. Bring unity to our church family, help us work together in love, and keep our hearts open to Your guidance. May this search bring glory to You. Amen.

DAY 5 | November 16, 2026

Listening Before Speaking

Church unity

Scripture
Proverbs 18:13 - "He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him"

Devotional
It is easy to respond to what we expect someone to say before we have truly heard them. During a pastoral transition, that habit can turn ordinary questions into misunderstandings. Careful listening honors the person speaking and helps us distinguish facts from assumptions. Committee members need this patience with candidates and one another. Ministry staff and church members need it in everyday conversations. We can ask sincere questions, allow others to finish, and resist assigning motives. Listening well does not require agreement with every opinion. It creates room for understanding and a more thoughtful response.

Personal reflection
Whose perspective do I need to understand more fully before offering my own opinion?

Prayer
Father God, give our church an abundance of patience during this season of transition. Equip our congregation, pastor search committee and ministry leaders with ears to fully hear the thoughts of others. Help us listen to understand so we can minimize misunderstandings and strengthen our unity together. Amen.

DAY 6 | November 17, 2026

Committing Your Works

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture

Proverbs 16:3 - "Commit your works to the Lord, and your thoughts will be established"

Devotional

Committing our work to the Lord reaches into the details of our plans. It includes the next committee meeting, the next ministry responsibility, and the next conversation about our future. We offer these tasks to God with a willingness to be corrected and directed. Careful preparation matters, and so does the spirit in which we work. We can release the need to control every result while remaining responsible for what has been entrusted to us. As our church continues serving, we can ask God to shape our thinking and make our efforts faithful to His purposes.

Personal reflection

What responsibility or concern do I need to entrust to God today?

Prayer

Lord, help me trust Your ability to guide our search committee toward Your chosen pastor. Give the committee members Your wisdom. As they commit their work to You, help us, as church members, to surrender our personal thoughts about the next pastor to You. Allow my thoughts, the committee's thoughts, and the congregation's thoughts to align with Yours. Amen.

DAY 7 | November 18, 2026

Examining Your Motives

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture

Proverbs 16:2 - "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits"

Devotional

Our preferences often feel reasonable to us. We may sincerely want what is best for the church while also hoping our own priorities will prevail. God sees the motives we overlook. This passage invites honest self-examination before we evaluate anyone else. Consider whether pride, fear, familiarity, or personal comfort is shaping your expectations. Our committee, staff, and congregation all need humility to receive correction. Bringing our motives before God helps us participate with greater honesty and grace. We can ask Him to deepen our love for the entire church and our willingness to follow His Word.

Personal reflection

What personal desire might be influencing what I call best for our church?

Prayer

Lord, search my heart and reveal any selfish motives. Help me to seek Your will and not my own. Help me be satisfied with Your choice rather than my own preferences. Give me a pure heart that seeks only what You want for our church. Amen.

DAY 8 | November 19, 2026

Relationships During Disagreement

Church unity

Scripture

Proverbs 17:9 - "He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends"

Devotional

People who love the same church may disagree about its needs or its future pastor. Those differences give us opportunities to practice patient love. We can address concerns with the appropriate person, speak truthfully, and refuse to recruit others into resentment. Repeating an offense can keep a wound open and separate people who need one another. Forgiveness and honest conversation help protect fellowship. Serious concerns still deserve appropriate attention and accountability. Throughout the search, our shared commitment to Christ can guide how we handle differences and how we treat those whose judgment differs from ours.

Personal reflection

Is there a disagreement I need to address directly and graciously instead of discussing it with others?

Prayer

My Lord, I come to you now asking you to give me a heart of love and peace. Give me the grace to foster love and promote peace during these final days of the search process. Help me remember that this isn't about me, but about you and your church. Please build an attitude and spirit of unity and support among us, as together we seek your will for our next pastor. Make me an agent of harmony at this strategic time. Amen.

DAY 9 | November 20, 2026

Trusting God's Provision

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture

Proverbs 10:22 - "The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it"

Proverbs 11:28 - "He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like foliage"

Proverbs 15:16 - "Better is a little with the fear of the Lord, than great treasure with trouble"

Devotional

Comparing our church with other congregations can distract us from faithful stewardship. We may wonder whether a larger budget, different programs, or greater visibility would make the search easier. These passages turn our attention toward the Lord and the value of reverence for Him. We can honestly recognize both our strengths and our needs without exaggeration or discouragement. God knows the people and ministry entrusted to this church. As we seek pastoral leadership, we can give thanks for His provision and faithfully use the resources we have to love people and share the gospel.

Personal reflection

Where is comparison making it harder for me to receive and steward what God has given our church?

Prayer

Lord, help us trust in Your provision and give us contentment as you provide the perfect pastor for our church. Keep us from needless comparisons and help us find joy in faithful service to you and your mission through us. Amen.

DAY 10 | November 21, 2026

Seeking Wise Counsel

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture

Proverbs 11:14 - "Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety"

Devotional

God often uses the wisdom of other believers to expose blind spots and strengthen judgment. The committee benefits from trustworthy counsel, and our ministry staff and congregation also need people who help us think biblically. Good counsel requires humility from those receiving it and discretion from those offering it. We can support the committee's access to experienced advisors while respecting the boundaries that protect candidates and sensitive discussions. Our part includes offering appropriate input through established channels and remaining willing to learn. Many perspectives are useful when they are weighed carefully in light of Scripture.

Personal reflection

Am I willing to receive wise counsel that challenges my preferred approach?

Prayer

Lord, help us seek wisdom and guidance from others throughout this process. Help us us listen with open hearts, respect one another's perspectives, and maintain unity as we work together. Keep us grounded through this entire process. Lord, we pray for every interaction with those we seek counsel from to be uplifting and encouraging. Amen.

DAY 11 | November 22, 2026

A Soft Answer Turns Away Wrath

Church unity

Scripture

Proverbs 15:1 - "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger"

Devotional

The tone of a conversation can change with a single response. When we feel anxious or misunderstood, harsh words may come quickly. A gentle answer creates room to address the issue without adding anger. This applies in committee meetings, staff conversations, small groups, and exchanges after worship. Gentleness can carry clear convictions and honest questions. Before responding, we can pause, consider the person before us, and choose words that invite understanding. Our speech can help make the church a place where difficult matters receive thoughtful attention and people are treated with dignity.

Personal reflection

What would a gentle and truthful response look like in a conversation I am finding difficult?

Prayer

Father, give us wisdom to defuse conflict and promote peace within our congregation. Help us respond to disagreements in ways that build unity rather than create more division. Make us a community of peacemakers that treat one another with gentleness and respect. Amen.

DAY 12 | November 23, 2026

Strong Confidence in the Lord

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture

Proverbs 14:26 - "In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge"

Devotional

A pastoral search may bring unexpected questions about candidates, church needs, or the work ahead. Those discoveries can leave us unsettled. Proverbs connects reverence for God with confidence and refuge. We do not need complete visibility into the future to turn toward Him today. Our committee and ministry staff need this steady confidence as they address real challenges. Members can help by responding patiently to uncertainty and remembering God's faithfulness. We can name concerns honestly, seek appropriate help, and continue our responsibilities with the assurance that God remains our refuge.

Personal reflection

What uncertainty do I need to bring to God rather than allowing it to govern my attitude?

Prayer

Father, we come to You with full reverence for the choice You have already made for our next Pastor. Lead us, as a church with Your wisdom to discover that correct candidate through the search process. Give us Lord, the ability to see challenges during the process as something to overcome without anxiety, but with complete confidence that You are in control. Let our congregation be assured that during this time You have been our refuge and will continue to be so and that nothing is too great for You. In the name of Your Son, we pray. Amen.

DAY 13 | November 24, 2026

Keeping Your Heart

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture

Proverbs 4:23 - "Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life"

Devotional

The condition of our hearts shapes how we listen, speak, and respond during this search. A concern about the future can become impatience; a personal preference can grow into favoritism. Proverbs calls us to guard our hearts with diligence because our inner attitudes affect our daily lives. Each of us can bring those attitudes honestly before God and allow His Word to correct us. Our committee needs hearts free from pride and partiality, our ministry staff needs encouragement as they serve, and our congregation needs patience and grace. As we seek God's wisdom, let us attend to the motives and desires shaping our participation.

Personal reflection

What attitude in my heart needs attention before it shapes my words, relationships, or expectations for our next pastor?

Prayer

Lord, help me to guard my heart so that what flows from it will glorify You. Let the condition of my heart contribute to life and blessing rather than division and harm. Make my heart pure. May I desire You and Your perfect will. Amen.

DAY 14 | November 25, 2026

Bearing One Another's Burdens

Church unity

Scripture
Proverbs 17:17 - "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity"

Devotional
Our committee members and ministry staff carry responsibilities that may not be visible to the congregation. They also have families, work, and personal concerns. Faithful friendship notices the person beyond the role. We can offer encouragement, practical help, and understanding when people are tired. Other church members may be carrying grief or uncertainty during this transition as well. Loving at all times means remaining attentive when the process feels long or difficult. A simple act of care can strengthen someone for the next task and remind them that they belong to a church family.

Personal reflection
Who could use encouragement or practical help from me today?

Prayer
Lord, help me be a friend who loves my fellow church members at all times, especially the pastor search committee members. Show me how to love and support others who may be stressed during this time of transition and the unknown future. Make me the kind of believer who was born for adversity - ready to support others in difficult times. Give me sensitivity to see when others need encouragement or help. Amen.

DAY 15 | November 26, 2026

The King's Heart in God's Hand

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture

Proverbs 21:1 - "The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes"

Devotional

This picture of a ruler's heart in the Lord's hand reminds us of God's authority over human leadership. We cannot predict every situation our next pastor will face or control every future decision. We can seek a leader with biblical character and sound judgment while trusting God to continue His work in that person's life. Remember our current ministry staff, whose leadership matters throughout the transition. They too need hearts responsive to God. As members, we can examine our own willingness to be directed by Him and support leaders with thoughtful encouragement and faithful participation.

Personal reflection

What desire to control future leadership do I need to release to God?

Prayer

Dear Father, I am so thankful for your leadership and for those you place in the role of shepherds in our church. I pray for our current pastors and staff. These have been challenging days of transition, and they have answered the call and been faithful to the task. Sustain them as our new lead pastor comes on board. I also pray for our new pastor, that he will allow you to lead his heart to be exactly the leader and pastor you want him to be. Thank you for having promised to build your church. We look forward to being a part of the continued construction for your glory. Amen

DAY 16 | November 27, 2026

Listening to Wise Counsel

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture

Proverbs 19:20 - "Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days"

Devotional

Receiving instruction is a lifelong part of growing in wisdom. A pastoral search can teach us about our congregation, leadership, and our own responses to change. We will learn more if we approach those lessons with humility. Committee members need openness to experienced counsel; staff members need encouragement and support; church members need a willingness to consider perspectives beyond their own. The value of this season can extend into future ministry. As we listen carefully, God can use what we learn to strengthen our service and deepen our understanding of how to care for His church.

Personal reflection

What lesson might God be teaching me through this season that will strengthen my future service?

Prayer

Lord, give us ears that listen to wise counsel and instruction. Give us discernment to hear your voice above all others. Help us learn lessons that will serve our church well during this time of searching and in the days and years ahead. Develop our hearts for the ministry responsibilities you give us. Amen

DAY 17 | November 28, 2026

Iron Sharpening Iron

Church unity

Scripture
Proverbs 27:17 - "As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend"

Devotional
Constructive conversation can refine our judgment. A thoughtful question may reveal an assumption we have never examined. Another believer's experience may help us recognize a need we have missed. Such exchanges require humility and care, especially when opinions are strong. Our committee needs freedom to consider challenging questions without personal hostility. Staff and members also benefit from relationships where truth can be spoken graciously. We can contribute by welcoming useful feedback and offering our own observations with respect. The aim is growth in faithfulness and understanding as we seek to serve Christ together.

Personal reflection
How can I receive a challenging question as an opportunity to grow rather than a personal attack?

Prayer
Heavenly Father, we seek comfort in those who encourage us as we seek the next leader of our great church. We pray for unity and for the Holy Spirit to help us grow together as one body seeking to do Your work. We specially pray for positive thinking, for us to be mindful of what we say and how we say it. Lord, help us be an example to others by living this example. Amen

DAY 18 | November 29, 2026

Planning and God's Direction

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture
Proverbs 19:21 - "There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the Lord's counsel—that will stand"

Devotional
Plans help us use time and resources responsibly. They also reveal how strongly we may be attached to our expectations. Proverbs reminds us that the Lord's counsel stands. When a timeline changes or a possibility closes, we can seek wisdom for the next step without assuming that our work has failed. Our committee needs both diligence and flexibility. Our staff and congregation need patience as plans develop. We can continue making thoughtful preparations while offering our expectations to God, willing to adjust as Scripture, wise counsel, and circumstances clarify the way forward.

Personal reflection
Which expectation about timing or outcomes am I holding too tightly?

Prayer
Heavenly Father, we pray that all will seek Your plans as ours don't always stand the test of time and often dissolve before we can implement them. We ask for patience for all concerned as we work to discern Your plan for our church and for our future Pastor. Give our committee the ability to make alternate plans when necessary and the wisdom to recognize that move. Let our congregation have faith that Your plans will not fail but bring prosperity to our church and a sense of joy in Your choice. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

DAY 19 | November 30, 2026

Staying Alert to God's Voice

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture

Proverbs 1:20-21 - "Wisdom calls aloud outside; she raises her voice in the open squares. She cries out in the chief concourses, at the openings of the gates in the city she speaks her words"

Devotional

Proverbs pictures wisdom calling out in public places, inviting people to pay attention. We need receptive hearts amid the many voices surrounding a pastoral search. Scripture provides the foundation for recognizing wisdom, while prayer and mature counsel help us consider its application. Strong feelings and popular opinions deserve examination rather than automatic acceptance. Our committee needs attentiveness as it evaluates candidates, and our staff needs wisdom in ongoing ministry. Every member can make room to listen by opening God's Word and considering its instruction before joining the next conversation about the search.

Personal reflection

What distraction is making it harder for me to attend to Scripture and wise counsel?

Prayer

Father God, thank you for the gift of your wisdom. Please direct the process for our pastor search committee, don’t let them become so focused on human methods that they miss Your guidance about our church’s needs. Help us recognize and respond to Your wisdom rather than just following procedures. Amen.

DAY 20 | December 1, 2026

Avoiding Gossip and Slander

Church unity

Scripture

Proverbs 11:13 - "A talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter"

Proverbs 26:22 - "The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body"

Devotional

Information about a pastoral search can feel especially interesting when details are limited. Speculation may travel quickly, even when framed as a concern or a request for prayer. These passages remind us that words can damage trust. Candidates and their families deserve discretion, and committee members need room to do their work responsibly. We can respect confidentiality, decline to repeat unverified claims, and direct genuine concerns through appropriate channels. Faithful speech also applies to what we say about staff and fellow members. Each conversation is an opportunity to protect dignity and strengthen trust.

Personal reflection

Is there information I should stop repeating or a rumor I should refuse to pass along?

Prayer

Lord, help me to be a person who can be trusted with the words of others. Guard my heart against the temptation to gossip. Give me wisdom to know when to speak. Let my words honor You, protect others, and reflect a heart that seeks Your goodness. Amen.

DAY 21 | December 2, 2026

Heart Plans Lord Directs

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture
Proverbs 16:1 - "The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the Lord"

Devotional
Our committee's preparation matters. Reading resumes, considering references, and asking thoughtful questions are ways of honoring its responsibility. Trust in God's sovereignty gives this work a spirit of dependence. As a congregation, we can encourage diligence and remember that no process gives us control over every outcome. Ministry staff and church members also have meaningful work to do today. We can prepare well for what is ours to carry and remain open to God's direction. Faithfulness includes both careful effort and the humility to acknowledge our need for Him.

Personal reflection
What faithful preparation is mine to do, and what outcome must I entrust to God?

Prayer
Lord, help me trust in You throughout this time of transition in our church. Thank you for continuing to work in our congregation. Give strength to our search committee as they lean into Your direction and follow Your steps during this search process. May Your voice overpower all other voices they hear so that Your will is done. Amen.

DAY 22 | December 3, 2026

Avoiding Hasty Decisions

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture

Proverbs 21:5 - "The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty"

Devotional

Waiting can feel uncomfortable, especially when we care deeply about the result. That discomfort can become pressure for a quick decision. Proverbs commends diligence and warns against haste. The committee needs time to evaluate responsibly, follow up on questions, and consider counsel. Our ministry staff needs a congregation that continues participating in ministry during the wait. We can support thoughtful work by resisting speculation about deadlines and refusing to measure progress only by announcements. Patience gives room for careful judgment while we remain actively faithful in the work God has already given us.

Personal reflection

How can I support a thorough search while continuing to serve faithfully during the wait?

Prayer

Father, I pray today for our search committee. Thank you for their diligence and attention to the details of this important process. Help me be faithful to pray, serve, and support. Let our careful work and authentic unity lead to a wonderfully abundant outcome and future for our church for your glory. Amen.

DAY 23 | December 4, 2026

Covering Transgressions in Love

Church unity

Scripture

Proverbs 10:12 - "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins"

Devotional

People will sometimes speak poorly, misunderstand one another, or make mistakes during a demanding season. Our response can increase conflict or help restore fellowship. Love encourages us to address people with grace, seek reconciliation, and resist the pleasure of exposing another person's failure. It also takes serious concerns seriously and supports appropriate accountability. Our committee, staff, and members all need both truth and mercy. We can examine whether our words are helping someone move toward restoration or keeping a conflict alive. Grace makes room for repentance, forgiveness, and renewed faithfulness together.

Personal reflection

Where could I respond with grace and pursue restoration while remaining truthful about the concern?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for the love you have given us through your Son, Jesus. Thank you for the love that permeates our congregation and binds us together in one Spirit. Help us respond always with love, especially in hard conversations. Keep us from stirring up conflict with critical attitudes but help us always seek restoration and unity. Amen

DAY 24 | December 5, 2026

Trust That Leads to Security

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture

Proverbs 28:25 - "He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the Lord will be prospered"

Devotional

Pride can enter a church conversation quietly. We may become certain that our preferred candidate or approach is the only reasonable choice. That certainty can harden into impatience with others. This proverb connects pride with strife and calls us toward trust in the Lord. Humble trust gives us freedom to speak honestly without insisting that we control the result. It helps committee members consider one another's judgment and helps staff and members remain gracious during uncertainty. As we surrender pride, we become more ready to receive correction and contribute to the peace of our fellowship.

Personal reflection

Where might insistence on my own preference be contributing to tension?

Prayer

Lord, thank you for guiding us through this journey. Help us walking in righteousness, patience and integrity as we seek Your will for our church. Give us faith to trust Your timing, even when the path is not clear. Help us to continue to follow You and trust that each step will bring us one step closer to the person You've called to lead our church. Amen.

DAY 25 | December 6, 2026

The Prudent Person's Approach

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture
Proverbs 14:15 - "The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps"

Devotional
Wise judgment considers information carefully. In a pastoral search, this includes verifying important claims, listening thoughtfully to references, and asking follow-up questions. The committee needs both thoroughness and fairness as it carries out this responsibility. Congregation members can support that work without expecting access to confidential details. We also need prudence in our own conversations: a confident statement is not necessarily an accurate one. Before accepting or repeating information, consider its source and whether it is ours to share. Discernment grows as we practice patient attention to truth and a charitable regard for people.

Personal reflection
What assumption or claim do I need to examine more carefully before accepting or repeating it?

Prayer
Father God, give our pastor search committee wisdom to consider information carefully during this applicant review process. Help them be prudent in their evaluation of candidates and their references. Give them a heart that hopes for the best in each candidate by equip them with the appropriate balance between trust and wise caution throughout this selection process. Amen.

DAY 26 | December 7, 2026

Corporate Confession and Forgiveness

Church unity

Scripture

Proverbs 28:13 - "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy"

Devotional

A healthy church makes room for confession and change. We may need to acknowledge careless speech, resentment, impatience, or indifference toward the people serving through this transition. This passage calls us to confess and forsake sin, receiving God's mercy. Begin with your own heart rather than deciding what others should admit. Where your actions have harmed someone, seek an appropriate opportunity to acknowledge that harm and make amends. Our committee, ministry staff, and congregation all depend on grace. Honest repentance can open a path toward restored trust and more faithful service together.

Personal reflection

What attitude or action do I need to confess, turn from, and where appropriate make right?

Prayer

Lord, help me to always seek Your forgiveness when I fall short. Give me the humility to acknowledge my sin and bring it to You. Forgive me and help me to forgive others in the same way. Renew my spirit so I may walk with You in Your grace and love. Amen.

DAY 27 | December 8, 2026

The Path of the Righteous

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture

Proverbs 4:18 - "But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day"

Proverbs 21:30 - "There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the Lord"

Devotional

Proverbs pictures the path of the righteous as light that grows brighter toward the full day. As we seek to walk faithfully with God, we can trust His wisdom without expecting to see every step ahead. No human counsel can prevail against Him. Our committee needs discernment for the decisions before it, our staff needs strength for ongoing ministry, and our congregation needs patience to keep serving together. We can respond to the light Scripture gives us today while entrusting what remains unknown to God. As the search continues, let us pursue righteousness, receive wise counsel, and follow faithfully wherever He leads.

Personal reflection

What faithful step can I take today while trusting God with what I cannot yet see?

Prayer

Lord, we pray You strengthen our faith that there is light and it is getting ever brighter as the search process is getting nearer to the end. Though every step has not been visible outside of the committee, we are assured You have guided each one toward Your perfect plan. We recognize that the plan is Yours and there is no one or nothing that can stand against You. It is our goal to be on the path of righteousness in all things as we strive to be closer to You in our walk. Give us energy to continue our service to the church as we eagerly await the announcement of our next Pastor. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

DAY 28 | December 9, 2026

Seeking Wisdom Above All

Wisdom and discernment

Scripture

Proverbs 4:7 - "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding"

Devotional

As this month draws toward its close, the call to seek wisdom remains before us. Wisdom shapes how we value character, respond to change, and apply Scripture to the needs of our church. It matters in the committee's evaluation of candidates and in the staff's daily leadership. It also matters in our homes, small groups, and conversations. We can continue seeking understanding long after this guide ends. A church growing in wisdom will be better prepared to receive pastoral leadership and participate faithfully in ministry, with hearts willing to learn and lives responsive to God's Word.

Personal reflection

What habit from this month will help me continue growing in wisdom?

Prayer

Lord, make wisdom the principal thing in the evaluation process for our search committee. Make wisdom the principal thing for our congregation as we love and support search committee members. Help our search committee follow Your wisdom in their decisions. Help me and our congregation know your wisdom was followed as decisions are shared with us. Allow Your wisdom to take over all of our minds and hearts so that we are sensitive to Your will throughout this process. Amen.

DAY 29 | December 10, 2026

Building Unity for the Future

Church unity

Scripture

Proverbs 15:17 - "Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred"

Devotional

Proverbs reminds us that love gives a shared meal a value that abundance alone cannot provide. The quality of our fellowship matters deeply as we prepare for future pastoral leadership. A welcoming congregation is formed through patient relationships, sincere care, and faithful service. We can begin cultivating those qualities now. Encourage the staff who serve today, make room for a member whose perspective differs from yours, and continue investing in the church's ministry. Our next pastor will join a living community. Each of us helps shape the love and fellowship that community offers.

Personal reflection

What relationship or act of service can I invest in now to strengthen our church's future fellowship?

Prayer

Lord, help us focus on building peace within our community at First Baptist Plano. Help me contribute to an atmosphere of genuine love and unity as our search committee prepares to present a recommendation to the congregation. Amen.

DAY 30 | December 11, 2026

Trust for Unknown Futures

Trusting God's sovereignty

Scripture

Proverbs 3:25-26 - "Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; for the Lord will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught"

Devotional

Our 30 days of shared devotion are ending, but our dependence on God continues. We may still have unanswered questions about the search, the timing, or the future of our church. Proverbs directs us toward the Lord as our confidence. We can carry forward the practices of listening, seeking wisdom, speaking graciously, and supporting one another. Continue remembering our committee, ministry staff, and congregation before God. Whatever stage the search has reached, our calling remains to follow Christ faithfully. We can take the next step with humble confidence in the God who sustains His people.

Personal reflection

What will it look like for me to keep trusting God and supporting our church after this guide ends?

Prayer

Father, help us face the unknown future of pastoral ministry in our church with excitement, hope and confidence in You. Remind me that every outcome is in Your hands, not dependent on human decisions alone. Thank you for sustaining and preparing our church during this transitional season. I trust Your continued guidance for whatever lies ahead. Amen.