



March 4, 2016

Last Wednesday evening (March 2) the Elders met with East Coast Conference Superintendent Howard Burgoyne to begin the process of seeking a Lead/Senior Pastor to replace Pastor Lyle. Superintendent Burgoyne has led the East Coast Conference for the last ten years, and during that time has coached most of the 80+ churches in the Conference in their search for a Senior Pastor. His vast experience, as well as his familiarity with and love for Christ Church in particular (he is after all a Rhode Islander and the son of our beloved Dean and Joy Burgoyne), lay a foundation of trust and support that will be invaluable as we join together and begin this journey.

In his remarks Howard emphasized two things: first, the importance of following our church's bylaws in the selection and approval process for the appointment of a Senior Pastor and, second, the importance of including congregational input into the process. Article IX.5 of our bylaws speaks to the former:

*IX.5. The Senior Pastor will be called at a regular or special congregational business meeting, announced at least two weeks in advance. A candidate for Senior Pastor will be recommended by a pastoral search team. The search team will be representative of the congregation, including from five to nine members, two of whom will be Elders with the remaining members selected from the active membership and approved at a congregational business meeting. The search team will work with the regional conference superintendent. Upon the recommendation of the Council of Elders the recommended candidate for Senior Pastor will be called by ballot with a two-thirds vote required for a call. The call will be for an indefinite period of time with a minimum of six weeks notice required by the church or the pastor for termination of pastoral duties.*

The search team will be diverse, including a balance of men and women and composed of different generations. It will be widely representative of the various church interests and constituencies. As to congregational input, Howard is eager to meet with the congregation at large in an "Open Forum." We will soon schedule such a forum.

We are confident that as we rely wholly on the Lord, he will lead us to the right person to give senior pastoral leadership to our church! Please join us in praying for unity of vision and clarity of direction as we begin the process.

For the Elder Council,

Don Zeyl, Chair