

Communications Dept.

By Dr. Ben Cross, Elder, Lead Teaching Pastor

Our Communications Pastor, Michael DiMarco has requested and was granted a leave of absence. A few important reasons play into this request - the most immediate being his sister's untimely death and Michael serving as the executor of her estate—a daunting task in itself, special circumstances make this especially challenging. This leave will be at least several weeks long.

The grief of this personal loss and the stress of this unexpected responsibility only exacerbate other layers of grief and stress Michael has experienced—leaving his previous ministry and the demands of his role there as senior pastor, selling his home, moving his family across the United States, buying and moving into a home here in Eugene, all the while taking the helm of one of the most demanding roles in one of the most complex and challenging departments in our church that has been vacant for the past 18 months.

All of this adds up to a weariness that a normal vacation simply cannot address. Please pray for wisdom and strength for Michael, as he serves his family while handling his sister's estate. Pray that he is also able to find time for rest and renewal. Pray, too, for his family's enrichment (Hayley, his wife and Addy, their daughter) during this time. - Ben

Elder Board



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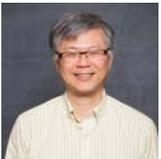
Marlin Schultz



Bill Newland



Al Houck



Peter Shum



Dan Collins, LMP



Brad Lauer, LOP



Ben Cross, LTP



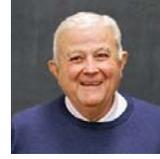
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Ron Ewert,
Secretary



Bill Wilson

Get in touch with the elders at
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Elder NEWS, Fall 2021

Lead Teaching Pastor (LTP) Search

By Al Houck, Congregant-Elder, Congregant Interview Team (CIT) Chair.

Greetings, I write this as a member of the Elder Board. I've been asked to lead the process and a team to identify the next teaching pastor. As most of you know, Dr. Ben Cross has been led by the Spirit to retire from his role as the Lead Teaching Pastor set for the end of January 2022. Once Ben's retirement was announced, the Board of Elders began the process of seeking God's next teaching pastor at FBC. We look forward to this next chapter.

With much prayer & conversation, the Elder Board has taken following steps:

- Confirmed the job description for the Lead Teaching Pastor.
- Contracted a national Pastoral Search firm to accept all applicant names and pursue other potential candidates. This firm will do the initial heavy lift of vetting candidates.
- Asked FBC members to submit their name if interested in joining the CIT.
- Organized the Congregant Interview Team from our First Baptist Church Congregation, to work with the national search firm to locate God's man for the Lead Teaching Pastor position.

We are pleased to provide this update as a means to:

- 1) keep you **informed** and
- 2) to request **your prayer support** for this process and committee.

A note of thanks. The response from the congregation to join the interview team was tremendous. Thank all of you, who showed interest in this area of service. After thorough discussion, the Elder Board solidified the individual **members**** of the Congregant-Interview-Team (CIT). Six members of the congregation-at-large, two members of the pastoral staff, and three congregant-elders. We, the newly formed CIT had our first meeting 10/24 to begin the journey God has placed before us. We are ready to serve and see how God reveals His will in this process.

We are encouraged by the Board of Elders to request your continued prayer support.

- For the committee and its members
- For Wisdom and Unity
- For the process, the church, and God's glory in the search results.

From the Congregant Interview Team,
PLEASE JOIN US, WITH YOUR PRAYERS.

Get Ready... for something Amazing

Brad Lauer, Elder, Lead Operations Pastor

Jennifer and I feel truly blessed to be a part of the First B family. You have welcomed us with open arms during this cross-country transition through your kind words, encouragement, and prayers. We are looking forward to getting to know all our First B family and serving side-by-side with you as we share God's love, mercy, and grace with the community and the world.

I was asked the other day, "What do you want to say to the church family?" To be honest, there are many things that crossed my mind, but the following has been resonating in my soul: "Get ready, God is about to do something amazing!" As we come out of COVID (or at least learn how to live in these days) and we launch ministries and opportunities, gather for worship, meet in small groups, and as we serve together, I believe God desires for something AMAZING to happen to grow the Kingdom and grow disciples. Are you ready? Are you willing?

Let's celebrate what God is doing in our lives, through our lives, and in our world! Remember, God is up to something amazing, and He wants to use US to accomplish it!

- Brad

Come Join Us, Prayer for the Search

Ron Ewert, Congregant-Elder, Board Secretary, LTP CIT member

As we seek God's leading for our next Lead Teaching Pastor, we hope you will help us as we lift-up the search process to the Lord. Come join us on the first Sunday of the month (Communion Sundays), we are meeting in the Garden Room at 8:30 to pray for the team as we answer the call to find the person God has in store for His church! See you 12/5.

We have assembled a passionate team of vision-led, Christ-centered members of the church who have dedicated themselves to the process. We will miss Pastor Ben, and we know God has special plans for he and Mary.

It will honor the Lord to find someone who will courageously carry the torch from the First Baptist pulpit...and that is our goal, our passion, and our mission! We are using the same professional search organization that helped us find Pastor Brad Lauer. We are optimistic, Lord willing, we will find great success once again. However, we need your help in prayer, so come join us on the first Sunday of the month to pray with us (time may vary so watch your email from the Church on Thursdays). Home prayer warriors...please pray for unity, wisdom, willingness to hear God's leading, and for protection over everyone involved. - Ron

Church Organization:

How we operate

Sheldon Johnson, Congregant-Elder, Board Chairman



Thank you so much for attending FBC-Eugene here and streaming. We pray you will join us LIVE as soon as possible and often. We are excited about the next chapter of ministry as we walk forward together in community, prayer, and in full anticipation of all God has promised to fulfill in us and through us locally and globally. The elders want to keep you abreast of various transitions and processes, allow space for reflection and be available for questions, comments, and participation.

If you're new and checking out FBC. Here's a little snapshot of how we are organized. You can learn much more by registering for FBC Connect.

FBC Eugene is an independent church with no denominational commitments. Jesus is the HEAD of the Church, and its members are responsible (a Congregational Church) to JESUS. The church members affirm by vote, eight leaders (2 each year) from among the membership to a voluntary four-year terms of office as "Congregant-Elders" (non-paid, non-staff). These eight congregant-elders hire and supervise three Lead Pastors to lead and manage the pastor/staff to train and equip the members and attendees to walk with Jesus, make disciples, and BE the church here and globally.

These three co-equal lead pastors oversee Operations, Teaching, and Ministry (Lead Operations Pastor, Lead Teaching Pastor, Lead Ministry Pastor). The three LP's ALSO serve as lead pastor-ELDERS. Together the eleven-member Elder Board serve together to govern the church. As you've read in this publication, you'll see a note from Brad. The LOP CIT recommended to the Congregant-Elders, who recently hired (and your vote affirmed) Brad Lauer as Lead Operations Pastor. Now the search for LTP is underway. We look forward to completing that process and welcoming a new Teaching Pastor in mid-2022. - Sheldon

CIT Focus:

Another thanks to the members of the LOP CIT search (for Brad Lauer): Cheryl Boyum, Terry Green, Al Houck, Gerrie Riihimaki, Pastors Sandy Park and Enoch Howell. Elders Peter Shum, Sheldon Johnson, Bill Wilson.

****Pray for these members of the LTP CIT, working now: Gerrie Riihimaki, Miriam Jordan, Justin Meyers, Larry Seno, Jacob Jacobson, Laurel Mathiesen, Pastors Anna Lancaster, Sarah Sparks, and elders Sanjeev King, Ron Ewert, and Al Houck.**