

THE FIRST BAPTIST NEWS



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An American Baptist Congregation Making God's Love Known in Los Angeles Since 1874
International • Intercultural • Ecumenical

REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Last fall at the annual 2015 Homecoming Meeting, the congregation appointed the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) which proceeded to commence a process to search for potential qualified candidates for the position of permanent Senior Minister. The congregation engaged in a series of "First Conversations" in which many members participated to reflect on our past, our present and our future. The PSC reviewed the "Call Statement" which grew from those sessions and which the congregation officially adopted at the Annual Meeting. The PSC considered the results of church-wide member surveys administered with participation from church members.

The PSC created a "Senior Minister's Profile" in response to the question, "What Do We Want In Our Next Pastor?" and utilized survey results as the basis for the Profile. The PSC asked members to verify that the profile was indeed "on point" and invited comments and feedback.

Over the course of 2016, the PSC has worked closely with the American Baptist Churches of Los Angeles, the Southwest and Hawaii (ABCFLASH) to input information from the Senior Minister's Profile into the American Baptist Personnel Services (ABPS), a nationwide database of active American Baptist ordained ministers. The process has resulted in generating a pool of potential candidates based on matching "what we want in our next Pastor" with ministers who have placed their resumés with the ABPS. The PSC has vetted names in an effort to identify potential candidates which may have potential to meet our needs.

The PSC is formulating a document titled, "A Profile Offered to Applicants for the Position of Senior Minister" – informational literature describing who we are, where we came from, and who we envision ourselves to become as a community of faith in the future. This September, the Church Profile will be posted in the "Minister's Opportunity Listings" hosted by ABC-USA and available to ordained ministers nationwide, as well as through our Region, ABCFLASH. The Profile will not only assist with outreach efforts, but help a prospective candidate in evaluating whether First Baptist Church of Los Angeles is a good match for him or her and his or her family.

The PSC has reached a critical juncture in the process, as now, we are poised to widely publicize our search for a permanent Senior Minister based on input from the congregation. On behalf of the PSC, I would like to thank all members for your patience and invite your ongoing prayers. I offer our special thanks to Dr. Norman Bullock for serving as our Interim Pastor, allowing the PSC to facilitate congregational self-study, define who we are looking for, and now, press forward with a formal expanded search process.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any PSC Member if you have questions, concerns or suggestions. The PSC members include: Zuleima Argumedo, Daniel Choi, David McFadden, Shirley Parsley, Alma Pineda, Richard Rogers and Marta Torres.

In Christ,
Gerald G. Gubatan, PSC Chair

SENIOR MINISTER'S PROFILE **First Baptist Church of Los Angeles**

The following Senior Minister's Profile was prepared by the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) in consultation with the congregation, in answer to the question, "**What do we want in our next Pastor?**"

Qualifications:

- Masters of Divinity Degree Required
- American Baptist Churches (ABC) Ordained or Willing To Become ABC Ordained

Professional Experience:

- At least 10 Years of Experience in Urban Ministry
- Experience in Relating to Multicultural Communities
- Experience in Evangelism and Church Growth
- Demonstrated Experience in Administrative Leadership
- Experience Relating to the ABC Denomination

Skills, Abilities, Talents:

- Good, Engaging Preacher
- Shown Past Interest In Christian Education
- Relates Well to People – A "People Person"

(Continued on Page 3)

PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Zuleima Argumedo
Daniel Choi
Gerald Gubatan, Chair
David McFadden
Shirley Parsley
Alma Pineda
Richard Rogers
Marta Torres



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A MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PASTOR

A Community of Believers

As we prepare to celebrate 142 years of ministry as a congregation of committed believers in Christ, we are reminded that God's plan for making disciples involves a community of believers who are there for each other – the church. Whenever you are in need of someone else's help, do you know who you would turn to? Why that person? What is it about them or your relationship with them that leads you to count on them in a time of need? We are constantly living in community with others, but that is all the more true when we are in a time of need. The early church, from its outset, became the center of community for its members, primarily because individuals were there for one another when they were in need.

41 So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added. 42 They were devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Reverential awe came over everyone, and many wonders and miraculous signs came about by the apostles. 44 All who believed were together and held everything in common, 45 and they began selling their property and possessions and distributing the proceeds to everyone, as anyone had need. 46 Every day they continued to gather together by common consent in the temple courts, breaking bread from house to house, sharing their food with glad and humble hearts, 47 praising God and having the good will of all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number every day those who were being saved. Acts 2:41-47

Imagine if our church had a 3,000 member increase in one day. There are four purposes of the church delineated in this passage that would allow this increase to happen:

- Fellowship
- Worship
- Discipleship
- Evangelism
- Ministry

The unity of the church was a testimony to God's presence, and "every day the Lord added to them those who were being saved" (v. 47). The early church was a growing church. They first had a reverent fear for God that guided them in their daily living (see v. 43). Next, they made loving other believers as themselves a priority for their fellowship, even to the point of selling private property in order to provide for members in need (vv. 44-45). They followed Jesus' great commandment to a "T." As a result, God honored them for that by blessing them with new members every day.

As we continue our transition and transformation and celebrate our 142nd Church Anniversary, let's ask God to bless our church with a unity born of genuine love that Christians have for one another. Ask God to build up the faith of each person so that he or she may love God with all his or her being and that each might truly demonstrate love for one another. Let's also thank God for His commitment to growing disciples and finally, pray that God would continue to challenge our view of His church and our role in it.



**AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES
OF
LOS ANGELES,
SOUTHWEST AND HAWAII
FAMILY GATHERING & ANNUAL MEETING
OCTOBER 1, 2016**

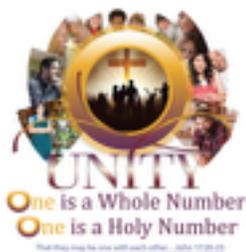
at the

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF GLENDALE
209 N. Louise Street, Glendale, CA 91206

WILL YOU JOIN US?

A personal invitation for you

We are a unique Region. Our geography is vast, our cultures are many, our local ministries vary...but the one connecting link is our life in Jesus Christ. Unity is our focus.



Let me extend to you and to your congregation a warm welcome to 2016 Regional Annual Celebration. The theme of our celebration, **“One is a Whole number and One is a Holy number”** is taken from the passionate prayer of our Lord Jesus Christ before His journey to the cross. We are living through a national climate of disunity, fragmentation, un-civil behavior and conversations. It is very timely to re-imagine our united life in Jesus Christ, and recover our foundational faith affirmation of unity in Christ and Christian virtues.

The best way your congregation can benefit from this wisdom and practical knowledge will be to bring a team of lay leaders who will be able to attend various sessions and workshops. I look forward to our time together in fellowship, worship, focused learnings, and greeting one another in Christian joy.

– Samuel Chetti, Executive Minister, ABCOFLASH

HOMECOMING MEETING

The **Homecoming Meeting** of the Congregation and Corporation of the First Baptist Church of Los Angeles, shall be held at 760 South Westmoreland Avenue, Los Angeles, California on **Sunday, September 18, 2016 at 12:30 p.m.** in the Sanctuary for the purpose of hearing reports, election of officers, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before such meeting.

–David McFadden, *Church Clerk* and Shirley Parsley, *Moderator*

A **Luncheon** will follow the Homecoming Meeting, in the Robbins Dining Hall. Adults, \$8.00; Children under 12, \$5.00.

**REPORT FROM
THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE:
SENIOR MINISTER’S PROFILE
(continued)**

- Works Well With Church Lay Leaders and Involved With Church Governance
- Ability to Engage Youth
- Sensitive to Pastoral Care Duties
- Bilingual Ability in English and Spanish is Desirable

The following are the top items (close to 80% or more) based on the church member survey:

Tasks of the Pastor:

1. Directly involving laity in the planning and leadership of church programs and events (90%)
2. Developing and supporting religious education programs for children / youth (86.67%)
3. Providing administrative leadership for the congregation’s ministry (83.34%)
4. Planning and leading worship sensitive to the needs of the congregation (83.33%)
5. Attending to the spiritual development of members (83.33%)
6. Visiting the sick, shut-in and bereaved (83.33%)
7. Actively and visibly supporting the church’s stewardship program (80%)
8. Providing and leading a program of new member recruitment (79.31%)



**EBENEZER DAY and
REUNION SUNDAY**

National Hispanic Heritage Month is the period from September 15 to October 15 in the United States, when people recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate the group's heritage and culture. During this time, First Baptist Church will recognize the many accomplishments of Hispanic and Latino Americans to this congregation. September 25 will be Ebenezer Emphasis Sunday. Members of the Ebenezer Ministry will lead us in worship. There will be a celebration luncheon at 12:30 in Robbins Dining Hall. All former and present members of Ebenezer are invited to join us. We are planning an Ebenezer Reunion Choir to share during the Morning Worship on that day.

760 South Westmoreland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90005

First Baptist Church
of Los Angeles



**HOMECOMING & 142nd ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 18, 2016**

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO SERVICE”

(Please read Joshua 24:11-28 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching

12:30 p.m.

Homecoming Meeting in the Sanctuary
followed by a Luncheon in the Robbins Dining Hall



EBENEZER EMPHASIS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Church School Classes for All Ages

11:00 a.m.

Worship in the Sanctuary

“THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP”

(Please read Luke 14: 25-33 in preparation)

DR. NORMAN BULLOCK, Preaching