NORTHVIEW

to make Jesus known

Dear Northview Family,

We are so thankful for you. Church is not the building. Church is people and your presence as a part of the Body of Christ called Northview is irreplicable. You are a unique and valued part of our church family, and we are so grateful for you.

As we have shared in past updates, we began our search for a new Senior Pastor with a focus on **prayer and fasting**, and we are committed to continuing this discipline through the entire process. We believe that there is no more important work that we can do as a church then to seek God's favor on our search. He has already anointed the man for this responsibility; we just need His help to recognize him. People have asked, "How would you like for us to pray for Northview and the search?" Certainly, we encourage you to pray as God leads you. Nevertheless, here are ten specific ways we'd ask for your prayers:

1. **Pray for Wisdom and Discernment.** Ask God to give our search team wisdom beyond human judgment so we recognize His choice rather than simply the most impressive candidate.
2. **Pray for Unity Within the Search Team.** Pray that every member would seek God's glory above personal preferences, maintaining humility and unity throughout the entire process.
3. **Pray for Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit.** Ask God to make our team attentive to the Spirit's leading and willing to follow His direction, even when it differs from what we thought or expected.
4. **Pray for the Future Senior Pastor.** Pray that God is preparing his heart, family, and ministry to hear God's calling to the role of Pastor at Northview.
5. **Pray for the Pastor's Family.** Ask God to protect, encourage, and prepare the pastor's spouse and children for the transition.
6. **Pray for Godly Character.** Pray that the search team remains true to our commitment of prioritizing biblical character over charisma or popularity.
7. **Pray for Trust in God's Perfect Timing.** Ask God to guard the team from running ahead of or behind Him, trusting in His sovereign timing to fill the position.
8. **Pray for Protection from Spiritual Opposition.** Pray that God would protect our church, staff and volunteers, search team, and potential candidates from discouragement, division, distraction, and spiritual attack.
9. **Pray for the Northview Family.** Ask God to prepare our hearts to receive our next Pastor with faith, encouragement, and unity.

10. **Pray That Christ Would Be Glorified Above All.** Pray that every conversation, interview, decision, and outcome would honor Jesus Christ and advance His mission through His church that we call Northview.

On July 13th, we added another step to our search process by embarking on a mission to **seek godly counsel** from a variety of sources. Each search team member was responsible to initiate "godly counsel" conversations with those whom God led them to for the purpose of gleaning wisdom. Our conversations included Northview congregants, current and former staff pastors, trustees, former elders, Senior Pastors of other large churches, ministry leaders and consultants, and business leaders. All in all, our team had 43 "godly counsel" conversations. In addition, we read the book *When the Word Leads Your Pastoral Search: Biblical Principles & Practices to Guide Your Search* by pastor and author Dr. Chris Brauns

With a plethora of godly advice and ideas, while continuing to earnestly seek God through prayer and fasting, on August 10th, we shifted our focus to **making a good plan**. Our focus this month is to gain a unified vision for the model and culture of senior leadership that we believe God is calling us to in this next chapter of the Northview story. Having clarity on that will inform us on the character, gifts, temperament, and experience that we are looking for in our next Senior Leader. Once those two pieces are in place, we will make our plan and begin to work it. Would you please pray for our team as we trust God for a unified vision and good plan for our search? He is faithful, and we believe that He will provide it.

One final thought. In the month of September, we are doing an At The Movies "*Unplugged*" format for the sermons on Tabitha, Martha, James (brother of Jesus), and Thomas. We are calling it Unplugged because each campus will bring their own lite take on the experience, and it is going to be amazing at every location. We will have our normal movie concessions of snacks for you to enjoy, just like you are at the movies. There is no better time or opportunity to invite a friend, neighbor, or colleague to church, especially those who are spiritually seeking. God could use your invitation to change their life for eternity.

We are truly grateful for you and believe that God is showing up in unmistakable ways within our church. All to His glory!

Your brothers in Christ,

Northview Elders and Pastor Mark Crull