

First Baptist Church of Annapolis, Inc.

Summary Report – Pulpit Committee – January 14, 2024

With the retirement of our current Pastor Louis J. Boston, effective December 31, 2022 at our Annual Church Meeting held on January 17, 2023 and in accordance with the Constitution & By-laws of First Baptist Church, a Pulpit Committee was elected and given the charge of instituting a process for the selection of a new pastor. The following individuals were elected: Deacon Wallace Williams, Deacon Charles Gross, Deacon Lawrence Burris, Deaconess Deborah McClure, Sister Denise Smith, Brother Jalen Williams, Sister Mary Pinckney, and Sister Brenda Nick.

The committee held its first meeting on January 21, 2023 at which time the following officers were elected: Deaconess Deborah McClure (chair); Deacon Lawrence Burris (vice-chair); and Brother Jalen Williams (recording secretary). The committee agreed to meet weekly to complete its assignment of finding a pastor. During the month of February we met to establish a step-by-step process and timelines for completion of the search and to secure research data and resource materials for assisting us with the process.

First order of business: The committee developed a congregational survey which was distributed to the membership to secure feedback regarding the qualities/characteristics they would like to see in our next pastor. The survey was available for a three-week period (March-April); 76 surveys were received. Upon conclusion the surveys were tallied and results were provided to the committee and shared with the congregation.

Next order of business for the committee was the development of a job description/announcement for posting of the position. Note: Information from the surveys was used to help develop the job description. Once completed, the announcement was posted for a period of sixty (60) days (May-June). The committee received 64 applications; 43 met the qualifications detailed in the job description. The committee methodically and meticulously reviewed ALL 43 applications (July-September) and voted on six (6) candidates to bring in for interviews. The interviews took place during the month of October.

After the conclusion of the interviews, the committee voted on three (3) candidates to bring before the congregation to deliver a sermon and hold a question/answer session and meet & greet session with the understanding that only two (2) candidates would move forward in the final phase of the process. These sermons took place during the month of November.

The committee met in December and voted to have the following two (2) candidates names placed on the ballot for consideration for the pastoral position: Rev. Dr. Kevin Graves and Rev. Dr. Mark Wainwright.

The committee selected the date of **January 6, 2024 @ 11 a.m.** as a **Special Call Meeting** for the “Call for the Pastoral Vote”. The vote took place at First Baptist Church of Annapolis; a quorum was present. The results of the vote was as follows: 91 votes were casted (69 votes required for election – $\frac{3}{4}$ of the number of votes cast as per our Constitution/By-laws); 13 votes received for Rev. Dr. Kevin Graves; 78 votes received for Rev. Dr. Mark Wainwright. Rev. Dr. Mark Wainwright was elected as Pastor-Elect.

The Pulpit Committee extends a heartfelt **“Thank You”** to the First Baptist Church congregation for your outpouring love, support, patience, understanding and most of all your prayers as we undertook this assignment. We appreciate and thank God for each of you. **“To GOD be the Glory”**

Respectfully Submitted,

Deaconess Deborah McClure – Chair, Pulpit Committee