

How will LifeChurch go about finding a new Lead Pastor?

Our governing documents (constitution and bylaws) specify the process by which a Lead Pastor is ‘called’ to serve at Life Church. In summary, the nominating committee of our church, Sue Allen, Laura Garvey, Kellie Durham, Mark Henry, Lindsay Hufford, will work together to present a slate of nominees to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee. Those nominees will be voted upon by our church members at a congregational business meeting on November 15th. The Pastoral Search Committee, equipped with “best practice” counsel by an experienced denominational staff member, will conduct a nation-wide search for the best possible prospects to serve our church. After in-depth interviews with multiple prospects, thorough vetting, and prayerful discernment, the Pastoral Search Committee will present one person as the “candidate” for the position. During a “candidating weekend” the members of our church will have opportunities to hear the “candidate” speak during a worship service. Members of the church will then vote whether or not to extend a “call” to the candidate to become the next Lead Pastor of Life Church.

How long will the process of searching for a new pastor take?

Experience in our denomination indicates that a careful and thorough search process usually lasts 6 months to a year. Believing that this is God’s church and that God will make it clear to our Search Committee whom it is that He wants to serve as our next lead pastor, our Search Committee will work hard in the discernment process. But ultimately it will be God’s timing, not ours, when that process comes to a close and we welcome a new Lead Pastor to serve Life Church.

We have great pastors on our staff already. Why don’t we just ask one of them to step into the Lead Pastor position?

Our church is blessed to have such a great pastoral team in place and it is our intent to keep every one of them on our staff through the transition and on into the future. But none of them believe they are being called by God to serve as the next Lead Pastor of Life Church.

If I want to suggest a name of a pastor to be considered by our Pastoral Search Committee, how do I do that?

Soon after our search committee is elected the committee will communicate with the congregation about how suggestions may be made for consideration. Since the Pastoral Search Committee is being delegated the responsibility and authority of engaging deeply in this discernment process on behalf of the church, we urge all of our members to communicate their suggestions and/or recommendations directly to the search committee and then to refrain from publicly “lobbying” for the person they have suggested in any format (e.g. Facebook, Twitter, in-person, etc.).

Who will be leading our church from the time Pastor Alex steps down (October 31) until a new Lead Pastor comes?

Pastor Mike and Pastor Rich have agreed to take on increased leadership responsibilities during the “interim” time. Generally, Rich will take on responsibilities related to our pastoral staff, and Mike will take on responsibilities related to our preaching and teaching ministry.

Will we have a chance to celebrate Alex and Marcie's time with us?

Yes, we are in the process of setting up a celebration event. More info is to come on this. If you are interested in helping, please contact the leadership team at leadershipteam@lifechurchcanton.org

Do I need to be a member to vote and if I am not a member, how can I become one?

Yes, a membership class will be coming up in October. Contact Kate Buckner for more info at kate.buckner@lifechurchcanton.org

What can I do to help our church during the "interim" time?

Pray that God will keep our church family unified and focused on our mission to help people **KNOW** Christ, **GROW** in their faith, and **GO** into the world to make a difference for the Kingdom of God. Continue to invite your friends and colleagues to our worship services. Volunteer to serve in one of our ministry areas. ***Pray for our staff, our leadership team, our nominating committee, our pastoral search committee and our future Pastor daily.***