

LakeRidge United Methodist Church

FAQ's Regarding the Search Process

For Senior Pastor

How long will the search for our next Senior Pastor take?

Our goal in this search is to find the best Senior Pastor to lead our church to its next season, so the timing is based on several variables, many of which are out of our control. While our hope is to have a new Senior Pastor in place by July 10, 2016, we are relying on God's timing – which may be different from our plans – and guidance throughout the process.

"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." Proverbs 16:9

When is Pastor Bill leaving?

Pastor Bill is planning his farewell message May 22, 2016. He will be present to pass the baton to the new Senior Pastor on July 10, 2015

How involved will the Bishop be in this search?

In accordance with our United Methodist Discipline, Bishop Bledsoe will make the appointment of the new Senior Pastor. He will be in close communication with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), our Senior Pastor and our search consultant throughout the entire process.

How will we find someone who fits our church?

1. Prayer. As a church and community we will keep prayer as the center of this entire process. We will pray regularly, expectantly, and intentionally for clarity throughout this process.
2. We will seek outside help from a Search Firm. The Dingman Group has been selected by our SPRC to conduct the search. Bruce Dingman, President of the firm, will be our primary consultant. He has successfully completed numerous searches for Senior Pastor.

Where do I direct someone to apply?

You may direct any interested applicants to Bruce Dingman, bruce@dingman.com

What if I know someone that you should consider?

We'd love to hear about them! Do not personally initiate contact with any potential candidates. If you know someone you would like to be considered for the position, send the name and contact information to bruce@dingman.com The Methodist Church has a well defined protocol for contacting potential candidates. Bruce Dingman knows how to navigate the system.

Who can I contact for questions regarding this search?

If you have any questions about this search and the process, feel free to contact Tracy Baugh, chairperson of SPRC at tracy.baugh@homeinstead.com

How will you keep us informed about the search process?

Our Transition Communication Team will give regular updates to the congregation on where we are with the process and how the search is going. Please check the church newsletter for these updates.

How involved will the congregation be in this search?

As United Methodists, we rely on the system that God has put in place in our

church. We are in a unique position as a church in regards to our relationship with our Bishop. He loves and respects LakeRidge UMC and the ministry that Pastor Bill has helped build these past 36 years. Bishop Bledsoe has been very open in his communication with us about the search process and will be taking into account the needs of the congregation and the recommendations of the SPRC in his appointment of the next Senior Pastor. The Congregation at two Town Hall meetings has provided input into the Opportunity Profile that will describe our next senior pastor. This profile will be posted on our website when it is completed. Interviews with candidates and spouses will be conducted by our SPRC and other leadership groups to determine which candidate is the best fit for our church.