



## Pastor Search Team Update February 28, 2021

We had a wide-variety of prospective candidates. As team members, we set aside our personal preferences. With your prayerful support, we continued to seek God's perfect will in this process. We are happy to introduce to you

Dr. Luke Stockeland. Below you will find information to very briefly acquaint you with Pastor Luke.

Education: In 2003, Pastor Stockeland received his Bachelor of Arts in Pastoral Studies from The Dayspring Bible College and Seminary in Lake Zurich, IL. He received his Master's in Christian Counseling from the Sarasota Academy of Christian Counseling, Sarasota, FL – ext. through Andersonville Theological Seminary in 2009. In 2013, he received his Doctor of Ministry from Andersonville Theological Seminary in Camilla, GA. He has also participated in continuing education courses through The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, KY.

Southern Baptist Church Leadership Experience: Pastor Stockeland served as the lead pastor for Open Door Church in Columbia, MO from 2012 – 2020. Prior to that he served from 2008-2012 as youth pastor at First Baptist Church and from 2005-2007 at Bethel Baptist Church, both located in Green Forest, AR. He was also a member of the Missouri Baptist Convention Nominating Committee. He currently serves on the board of trustees for Hannibal LaGrange University (a Southern Baptist University). He has served as a board member and as chaplain for numerous ministry related organizations.

Family: Pastor Stockeland married Anne in 2005. They have four children: Jarren-14, Jolee-11, Olivia-9, and Briella-3.

Calling: "I believe that I am "called" first as a Christian, then as a husband, then a father. I also know that the Lord has called me to vocational ministry leadership. I want to be a faithful servant, growing, learning, serving, and leading, all for God's glory".

Direct quotes of what others have said about Dr. Stockeland:

- a thoughtful, wise, excellent preacher with a pastor's heart
- a passion for Christ and a heart for evangelism
- demonstrated a maturity beyond his years in assisting people
- his greatest asset is his humility and teachable spirit
- a man of God, who has a pastor's heart and seeks to be obedient to God's will. His service in ministry being all for God's glory.
- a heart for preaching, discipleship and biblical counseling. He is a great proclaimer of the full Word of God.
- he serves a diverse congregation and is effectively reaching those who have been in church for decades and young families who are new to the faith

Join us on Saturday, **March 13<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM** in the Worship Center to meet our Pastoral Candidate and on **March 14<sup>th</sup>** Pastor Luke will preach in view of call. The church will vote at the conclusion of the service to approve the unanimous recommendation from the Pastor Search Committee to call Dr. Luke Stockeland to the position of Senior Pastor.