

Pastor Profile

First Baptist Church, Plainview

The pastor must be a committed follower of Jesus Christ, a person whose life bears testimony of divine calling and gifts for ministry, and one who, with his family, accepts his responsibility convinced of God's leadership and the enthusiastic affirmation of the church. He will prayerfully lead the church in following the Great Commandment and in fulfilling the Great Commission.

He should have the gifts of preaching and teaching, be a persuasive communicator of the Gospel, and provide encouragement and guidance for church leaders and committees in planning, coordinating, and evaluating the activities of the church. He should be knowledgeable of all aspects of the work.

The pastor will supervise the staff within the organizational structure of the church, evaluate their work, and administer the program of the church. He will give leadership in developing and recommending strategic goals and actions which address the needs of the church and community, lead the church to develop a budget to meet those needs, and have skills to motivate lay leaders to achieve these goals.

He will visit and counsel with church members to provide encouragement and support during times of special need. He should be warm, outgoing, friendly, and approachable; able to relate to all age groups, and minister to every person in the congregation.

He must be an effective witness of Jesus Christ, provide leadership in evangelism, outreach, missions education, and missions projects, and emphasize the need for qualified persons to respond to God's call to missions and ministry.

His style of leadership shall be characterized more by influence and persuasion than by control and coercion. He will be inclusive in spirit and a proponent of the historic Baptist distinctive, including the primacy of scriptures, the dignity and worth of every person, the priesthood of the believer, freedom of conscience, and religious liberty.

Although he will recognize the heritage of First Baptist Church, Plainview, he will also embrace diversity and seek out ways to create an open and hospitable atmosphere for seekers who are unfamiliar with church traditions.

He should have no less than a Master's of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary and have successful experience as a pastor of a Southern Baptist church, or in a significant denominational leadership position.

The pastor will lead the church to cooperate with community groups and other Christian entities at the local, state, and national level, and be an articulate interpreter of the ministry of our church.

**Adapted from Paul W. Powell's handbook, "Pastor Search".*