



May 16, 2022

Dear Cook Baptist Church Family:

Your Pastor Search Committee has been meeting on Monday evenings since December 1, 2021. We are quite a varied group which has made for an exciting experience and showed us just how wonderfully God works to put all the necessary pieces, in this case people, together to bring about His ultimate plan for our Church. We have shared together, prayed together, fasted, reviewed resumes, sent out and reviewed questionnaires, listened to sermons, talked with references, and Zoomed with candidates. During this process, one person continually “rose to the top of the stack.” After much discussion and prayerful consideration, each member of our Committee believes and unanimously agrees on that candidate. We have diligently reviewed his qualifications, interviewed multiple references from varying walks of life, verified his credentials, conducted a thorough background check, and spent several hours with him and his wife in personal meetings and conversations. We believe that the Committee has done due diligence throughout the search process and can without reservation and with great excitement recommend to you that Dr. Joseph Fowler be called as the next Senior Pastor of Cook Baptist Church!

Dr. Fowler is a passionate and yet humble individual who teaches and lives the Word of God. He is currently serving at Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he is the Associate Pastor. Prior to COVID, he led their Sunday night services. He also works directly with their Senior Pastor to provide vision and leadership for Jefferson. He has a strong desire to preach the Word of God, to disciple believers in the Word, and to work in the community to reach others for Christ. He is a person with excellent leadership capabilities and positive vision for our community. He is excited to come to Cook and sees great potential in our church and the community. His wife Mary is also a strong leader who is currently serving as the Interim Children’s Minister at Jefferson. She is also a math teacher and would like to teach in the Ruston community. They have one child Isaac who celebrated one year old this month.



Dr. and Mrs. Fowler and Isaac will be visiting Cook Baptist in view of a call on Friday through Sunday, May 27-29. Attached is a schedule of activities planned to help you get to know them. Please take advantage of the opportunity to meet Dr. and Mrs. Fowler on Saturday afternoon during an informal reception to be held in the Fellowship Hall. Dr. Fowler will be preaching the Sunday morning sermon on May 29th at 9:00a.m. Following the service, there will be a Question-and-Answer period (in lieu of Connect Groups). At the close of the Q&A, the church will hold a special-called business meeting to act on the motion to support the recommendation of the Pastor Search Committee and call Dr. Joseph Fowler to serve as Senior Pastor of Cook Baptist Church. Ballots will be counted immediately by the Pastor Search Committee and the results announced to the congregation. According to the church by-laws, a ninety percent affirmative vote of those present and voting is required in order to issue a call. Please prayerfully consider your vote and how it will affect the life and potential of Cook Baptist Church.

The Committee has been blessed and encouraged through this process. We are excited to see God's hand at work in the lives of the Fowlers as well as in the life of Cook Baptist Church. We pray that God will continue to bless our church as we move forward in the days ahead.

In Christian Love,

Brent Gay, Chair  
Pastor Search Committee

Other Committee Members:

Ethan Welch, James Davis, Janet Maxwell, Kathye Scriber, Eileen Cook,  
Rhea DeOliviera (Ex-Officio – Personnel), and Ed Lary (Ex-Officio – Deacons)



## **SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

**RELATED TO THE VISIT OF DR. AND MRS. JOSEPH FOWLER**

**MAY 27-29, 2022**

### **MAY 9**

6:00 p.m. - Pastor Search Committee (PSC) meeting with Ministerial Staff

### **MAY 15**

9:00 a.m. - PSC Chairman presents recommendation to call Dr. Joseph Fowler to the church

### **MAY 16**

6:00 p.m. - PSC meeting with Personnel Committee

7:00 p.m. - PSC meeting with Deacons

### **MAY 16**

- Senior Pastor Website available to members

### **MAY 25**

6:00 p.m. - PSC members' comments and Q&A during informational session

### **MAY 27**

12 noon - Dr. and Mrs. Fowler join staff for lunch

5:00 p.m. - Dr. and Mrs. Fowler join Deacons, Pastor Search Committee, Staff, and spouses for dinner

### **MAY 28**

3 - 5 p.m. - Informal Meet & Greet reception for Dr. & Mrs. Fowler in Fellowship Hall

### **MAY 29**

9:00 a.m. - Morning Worship Service - Dr. Fowler will preach

10:00 a.m. - Q&A in Sanctuary (in lieu of Connect Groups)

**At the conclusion of the Q&A, a Special-Called Business Meeting will be held and a vote taken by secret ballot to call Dr. Joseph Fowler as Senior Pastor for Cook Baptist Church.**