



2024 Theme:

From Generation to Generation, Growing Deeper, Growing Stronger, Reaching Higher

"Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you, . . ."

Deuteronomy 32:7



Dear First Mount Zion Baptist Church Family,

As you are aware, we are currently in "Phase IV" of the Pastoral Search for the next Under-Shepherd for First Mount Zion Baptist Church. As we navigate this time of transition in our Pastoral Search, we humbly ask for your dedicated prayers as we continue to move forward with the duties that each of you have entrusted to us.

In the book of Philippians 1:3-5 and 9-11 it says,

"I thank my GOD upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. / 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of GOD.

GOD is shepherding his people even in seasons of pastoral transition. Unexpected resignations or changes in leadership do not threaten His good purposes or plans. His promises pertaining to prayer remain in uncertain seasons. He continues to work through the prayers of his people. In fact, GOD may use a season of pastoral transition to deepen trust in Him. He has worked in churches looking for their next pastor and through Pastor Search Teams such as the FMZBC Pulpit Committee.

Here are some ways we are humbly asking for you to pray for the First Mount Zion Baptist Church's Pulpit Committee.

1. Pray for the Pulpit Committee as we diligently seek GOD's guidance in selecting our next Under Shepherd, that we may discern the right leader for our church, Congregation and Community.
2. Pray for unity within our congregation, for wisdom in decision-making, and for GOD's perfect timing in bringing us the Pastor He has chosen for us.
3. Pray for the person of GOD's choosing.
4. Pray that GOD will continue to use our next Pastor where he or she is, as they honor the Lord by proclaiming His Word and faithfully serving in their present ministry. Pray that this would be an adventure of faith for their whole family, as they seek together to serve GOD in another place.

The following are some steps on specifically how to maximize the power of prayer in our Church's transition, with supporting scripture:



1. **Give praise to the Lord the glory due His name**

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness. (Psalm 29:2)

Begin in prayer by recognizing who GOD is. Acknowledge that He is GOD and you are not. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name. Praise Him for His attributes.

2. **Give glory, honor, and praise to GOD for His work in salvation**

But I have trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation. (Psalm 13:5)

Thank GOD for your own salvation and the salvation of the Pulpit Committee members. Ask GOD for more conversions even during the season of pastoral transition.

3. **Praise GOD for the various gifts He has given to First Mount Zion Baptist Church**

Now there are a variety of gifts but the same Spirit... (1 Cor. 12:4)

Thank GOD for the various gifts in the Church and on the Pulpit Committee. Ask GOD to empower those gifts for fruitful ministry and this Pastoral Search process.

4. **Plead with GOD through prayer and meditation to give unity to the First Mount Zion Baptist Church Pulpit Committee**

Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.... (Eph 4:3)

Ask GOD for a spirit of eagerness to maintain the unity of the Spirit. Recognize the various ways that the devil might foster disunity amidst the Church and the Pulpit Committee. Present yourselves to GOD and commit to pursuing and maintaining this unity.

5. **Ask GOD to grant wisdom to the First Mount Zion Baptist Church Pulpit Committee**

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of GOD, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.. (James 1:5)

Recognize that wisdom comes from GOD. Confess your need for wisdom and the Search Team's need for wisdom in this process. Plead with GOD to give wisdom.

6. **Pray that GOD would bless and direct the candidates during this process**

If anyone aspires to the office of overseer one desires a noble task... (1 Tim 3:1)

Pray that this process would be a blessing to the candidates. Pray for GOD to bless their families and current churches. Ask GOD for His direction in their lives just as He spoke to Samuel that He would speak to them.

7. **Ask GOD for His leadership in identifying the top candidates**

The LORD said to Samuel [...] "I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided myself a king among his sons." When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely, the LORD's anointed is before him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD look on the heart." (1 Sam 16:1-7)

Ask GOD to give the Team insight in identifying His candidate for this Church. Ask GOD to help the Team look past what they want and to see what GOD wants.

8. **Intercede for the Pulpit Committee knowing that we will face spiritual warfare**

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Thank GOD for His victory over the devil. Ask for GOD's protection for the Pulpit Committee knowing that this season will bring spiritual warfare. Plead with GOD to give the Church's congregation and the Pulpit Committee everything needed in this warfare.

The MESSENGER



9. Ask GOD to give the Church a spirit of support towards the Pulpit Committee

Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up! Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken. (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Ask GOD for a spirit of support among the Team. Ask GOD to prevent any spirit of unhealthy suspicion or malice. Pray that GOD would use our members to practically encourage the Pulpit Committee through the process.

10. Praise GOD that the future of the Church is in His hands

I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18)

Praise GOD for the finished work of our Lord Jesus Christ who established the Church. Praise GOD for the ongoing work of Jesus Christ through the Church.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to prayer during this important season.

With Humble Sincerity,

The First Mount Zion Baptist Church Pulpit Committee



Join us for a Prayer Circle.

When: November 24th (4th Sunday)
Time: Immediately After Service
Location: Chapel



This time is for Prayer ONLY



Next time: Dec 22



FMZBC PULPIT COMMITTEE

Transition Plan Phases

- ✓ Phase 1 –Church Governance & Selecting a Pulpit Committee
- ✓ Phase 2 –Defining Requirements and Expectations
- ✓ Phase 3 –Search and Recruitment
- Phase 4 –Evaluating and Shortlisting**
- Phase 5 –Interview and Further Assessment
- Phase 6 –Presentation to the Congregation
- Phase 7 –Decision Making
- Phase 8 –Transition and Installation

MESSAGE FROM THE PULPIT COMMITTEE:

Sisters and Brother in Christ:

We thank you for sharing the word about our Vacancy Announcement. The Announcement was closed Sunday, October 20th at 11:59pm. You can continue to find updates from us through Messenger, Connection Points, and Church Slides. Please reach out to your Zone Leaders if you do not receive those communications!

As always, please email us at pulpitcommittee@firstmountzionbc.org for any questions you may have.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO LIFT THIS MINISTRY UP DURING THIS TRANSITION PROCESS AND ALSO PRAY FOR THE SEARCH COMMITTEE THAT GOD WILL HONOR THEIR SERVICE AND THEIR DEDICATION TO THIS ASSIGNMENT TO WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN CALLED!