

Selection of Evangel's Next Lead Pastor

October 9, 2021

After 30 years of faithful service as Founding Pastor of Evangel Christian Fellowship, Jeff Hoover has been called by the Lord to focus his spiritual assignment of Unity, Encouragement, and Discipleship beyond the walls of Evangel with a focus on other pastors and ministries in the Longview / Kelso area. His God-given vision and talents have uniquely prepared him for this call, and he has the full and unqualified support and approval of Evangel's Eldership.

Transitioning from Jeff to a new lead pastor provides both the Eldership and the Body of Evangel an opportunity to pause and consider the now-familiar aspects of our past and present expression of Jesus. Just as each Christian believer reflects and represents Jesus in his or her own special way, each Body of Believer & each local church – is a unique expression of Jesus to its members, the larger Church of the local geographical area, and ultimately to the world.

When Evangel was “birthed”, the leadership adopted a 2-part “Mission Statement” – our Vision as a Body. We believe we were called to...

“Break down dividing walls and restore relationships between people groups - while investing heavily in the next generation of Believers.”

Over time, we set as our priorities – *“Worship, Prayer, Giving, and Growing.”*

We believe it is appropriate to reflect on these foundational principles in framing the process of selecting a new pastor. We are in no way suggesting we abandon these principles, but we feel it's a great time to ask ourselves a few questions based on who we are today including:

“What gives Evangel its uniqueness?”

“What do we consider important?”

“What have we been called to do?”

“Have our efforts been fruitful?”

These questions are important because the person who will become the lead pastor here should be selected based in part on an understanding of who we are and what we believe we have been called to be and to do. Those answers define our calling as a Body by Kingdom standards, not by worldly standards.

In such matters of importance, we should always go to the Word first...

1st Timothy 3, Titus 1, and Ephesians 4 (see page 3 for text of these scriptures) give qualifications and instructions for choosing a Pastor / Elder / Overseer / Shepherd. They should be:

- Persons of integrity – worthy of respect by all
- Have self-control
- Not substance abusers
- Hospitable
- Respectful in dealing with people
- A good husband / father
- Able to communicate God's word
- Not a lover of money
- Not a new convert
- A servant

Church leaders (pastors and others) are purposed to nurture and prepare the Body to do ministry which leads to unity, full knowledge of Jesus, maturity, and the abundance of Christ.

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Evangel's Elders will diligently and prayerfully follow this biblical framework as we consider potential candidates for the role of Pastor.

Additionally, we invite the members of Evangel to share with us the attributes and/or characteristics you'd like us to consider - things you feel are important to address the needs of the Evangel "family," and the city-church of our area.

Please indicate how important each of these descriptors are to you personally and to the Body, using a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest importance:

Accessibility for personal relationship	1	2	3	4	5
Support and value for the prophetic	1	2	3	4	5
Word-based teaching	1	2	3	4	5
Pastoral experience	1	2	3	4	5
Administrative leadership style	1	2	3	4	5
Pursuit of growth	1	2	3	4	5
Relationships with other churches/leaders	1	2	3	4	5
Values multi-generational church body	1	2	3	4	5
Resiliency and confidence during adversity	1	2	3	4	5
Spiritual and life counseling	1	2	3	4	5

Please feel free to add other thoughts below:

Please return this by October 17. They can be dropped in the ECF mailbox, the counter slot, emailed or texted to one of the elders, or hand delivered to one of the elders. Thank you.

Name _____

Contact number _____

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Scripture References:

1 Timothy 3:1-7 Amp

“If any man (eagerly) seeks the office of overseer, he desires an excellent task. Now an overseer must be blameless and beyond reproach, the husband of one wife, self-controlled, sensible, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine, not a bully or quick-tempered and hot-headed, but gentle and considerate, free from the love of money (not greedy for wealth and its inherent power / financially ethical). He must manage his own household well – keeping his children under control with all dignity... and he must not be a new convert, so that he will not (behave stupidly and) become conceited (by appointment to this high office) and fall into the (same) condemnation incurred by the devil (for his arrogance and pride). And he must have a good reputation and be well thought of by those outside the church, so that he will not be discredited and fall into the devil's trap.”

Titus 1:5-9 Amp

“... a man of unquestionable integrity, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of being immoral or rebellious. For the overseer, as God's steward, must be blameless, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not violent, not greedy for dishonest gain (but financially ethical). And he must be hospitable (to believers as well as strangers), a lover of what is good, sensible (upright), fair, devout, and self-disciplined (above reproach – whether in public or in private). He must hold firmly to the trustworthy word (of God) as it was taught to him, so that he will be able both to give accurate instruction in sound (reliable, error-free) doctrine and to refute those who contradict it (by explaining their error).”

Ephesians 4:11-13 NIV

“So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”