

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Why is Pastor George leaving?

A: Pastor George is not leaving us; he is initiating his well-deserved retirement. He's dedicated the last 30 years to leading the LifePoint family, including building the vision for this church and breathing life into it to enhance our faith, missions and purpose. God prepares and removes/installs leaders over time. We are honored that Pastor George gave us his leadership and acted on his initial vision.

Q2: Will PG and Sheryl be back?

A: Yes. They will stay with us for the next few months until we identify an appropriate new leader who will continue the vision for our church. Pastor George and Sheryl will at that point take a short-term leave to plan what retirement looks like for them. This is their church home and they will be coming back to where their hearts belong.

Q3: Is something wrong? Did something happen?

A: This was solely Pastor George and Sheryl's decision, after much prayer about their future. There is never a good time, but God has led them to decide he's ready and the church stands on a strong foundation to make this change. He's not sick. He's not being forced out. He is simply retiring and looking forward to returning in a different capacity.

Q4: What happens next? Who will determine the selection of the next senior pastor?

A: A Board of Directors must always be prepared for change. In this case of Pastor George's decision to retire, God has blessed the board with studying for this type of change. The board has read books and studied how succession plans work in preparation for this possibility. The board will serve as the search committee with the guidance of a firm named Vanderbloemen.

Q5: Who is on the board? How long have they been part of the board? How are they chosen?

A: We will be posting the board members' bios on our Succession Plan web page to keep the entire church aware of who the board is, where we are in the process and specific prayer requests throughout the process. The board includes both staff and non-staff members, including PG and Dennis. Like any Board of Directors, we ensure diversity, that we are hearing new ideas and we have continuity from long-standing LifePoint members. The directors must be active church members who serve the church, tithe regularly, commit time to LifePoint and sign a Statement of Faith. They are members who God directs Pastor George to consider. He does interviews and then the board votes to accept or deny the proposed member.

Q6: Who is Vanderbloemen? What is their experience and what exactly will they do?

A: a Christian Executive Search Firm with the largest network of 70,000+ pastoral, church and ministry-minded candidates available. They have helped source and place candidates for LifePoint before, so we know them already and fully trust their abilities. They are the only Christian search firm who is part of the Association of Executive Search Consultants, an invitation-only association for search firms who have gone through extensive auditing of their processes. The executive appointed to our search has 25 years of Lead Pastor experience and has successfully placed many candidates.

Q7: What happens to LifePoint after Pastor George is no longer leading?

A: We pray for a successful succession. Like a patriarch handing off the baton to a son, the patriarch is still an integral part of the family, he isn't going away and he is not dead to us. It's part of the circle of life.

Q8: Will anything else change after Pastor George steps down?

A: PG has groomed a strong leadership team who is committed to LifePoint. With this team structure, they can work well to keep things running even when PG is not at the helm, such as during his annual sabbaticals. There are so many inner workings of the church that he isn't directly responsible for that have qualified leaders who are dedicated to making LifePoint run well. Some examples include the AV/audio team who runs all the equipment during services and events, the worship team who prepares each week to lead our spiritual and musical experience, the Stephens Ministry who helps those in crisis, the LPK and youth programs, the support groups and prayer team. It takes many leaders – both on staff and volunteers – to keep a church running. We are so grateful to be blessed with such an amazing team.

Q9: What are the requirements and qualifications for the new pastor? How old will the person be?

A: The board will work closely with Vanderbloemen to create the job description, their required qualifications, desired personality traits, past experience and other key factors. We are prayerful about finding the best candidate without too many limitations, but they must meet our required thresholds.

Q10: Is the search limited to the DFW area or Texas?

A: This is a nationwide search using Vanderbloemen's large database. They are able to attract the right candidates using a stringent process. There are no geographic restrictions within the U.S.

Q11: Why isn't the board considering a candidate already at LifePoint?

A: There are several reasons, actually. First, no one on the current staff has expressed the desire. Second, the board prefers someone with similar experience as Pastor George in preaching 40+ sermons per year for several years. And lastly, we want to avoid favoritism. LifePoint has a wonderful staff that PG has been grooming and someday one of these LifePoint employees may want to be considered as a senior pastor after more experience.

Q12: Will the LifePoint culture change with a new pastor?

A: In searching for the new candidate, we are casting a wide net with filters in place to find the ideal successor. We are heavily filtering for competency in leadership and experience, character of faith and integrity, cultural alignment with LifePoint, and chemistry to work with our church family and staff.