

Dear Members and Friends of Epworth,

Grace and peace to you during these holy days of Lent. The gift of NEW LIFE which comes with the resurrection of Christ awaits us.

An important search is now commencing, and I would like to call the entire church to prayer. As you know, we lost our long-serving and beloved Director of Student Ministries, Bob Knowles, at the beginning of February. You may also be aware that Chuck Campos stepped out of retirement to provide ministry to our youth and their families, agreeing to serve as our Interim Director of Student Ministries. We are so appreciative of Chuck offering this gift during this tender time.

On Tuesday, February 27nd our Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) met and discerned a process for searching for our next leader of Student Ministries. ***SPRC created a search committee to lead this effort, chaired by Bobbi Sanders.*** Bobbi is both a member of SPRC and an active mentor in our student ministry. Please keep this team in your prayers.

The search team's first order of business will be to gather our youth, youth leaders, parents, and staff to listen to their hopes for this position. This listening will result in a list of attributes that will help us in identifying and interviewing potential candidates. Listening sessions will be held to all those who wish to offer their thoughts about this position. This feedback from these sessions will enable the sub-committee to further perfect the job description.

LISTENING SESSIONS:

- **Sunday, March 18 at 12:30pm (Open to any and all)**
- Sunday, March 18 at 4:30pm (Dedicated to SWAT Leaders only)
- Sunday, March 18 6pm & 7:30pm (Dedicated SWAT Youth only)
- **Tuesday, March 20 at 6:30pm (Open to any and all)**

I ask the entire church to first be in prayer. Considering the capital investment we have made to create a state-of-the-art space for our student ministry, and this program's strong reputation, we need God's guidance in selecting the best available person for this role.

Secondly, based on conversations with other churches in our size range, we will most likely need additional monies to attract and retain a top-notch candidate. Our budget for 2018 was not anticipating a national search for this key position. With this in mind, if you are in a place where you may be willing to increase your giving, we would greatly appreciate it.

If you have any questions, or if you have connection to potential candidates, please feel free to speak to Bobbi Sanders at **419.250.2392**. *Our youth and children are not the church of tomorrow, they are the church of today.* Thank you for your commitment to this search, which will reveal a leader who will help us to more fully live into this spiritual reality.

In Christ Jesus,



Rev. Dr. Douglas Damron, Senior Pastor