

“Good morning. I cannot report to you this a “mission complete” on the senior pastor search process, but I can report clear progress. To date, we’ve had more than 20 applicants reach out to us with interest in our position. Most have come through the EPC posting and all have been referred into the NL Moore evaluation process. NL Moore is finalizing the opportunity profile and also evaluating those candidates. A direct pipeline for our search between the EPC and NL Moore is ready for our triggering with the full launch of NL Moore. Our committee is also preparing uniform questions for the final candidate interviews.

To see where we are in our search, I suggest you visit the search committee’s page on New Hope’s website. There you will find regular updates and a “Process Overview” graphic that shows where we are in a five-step process. Although progress has been steady, we are on module two of five. There has been a lot of work done but we’ve got a ways to go.

As you may recall from our report in May a preparation effort precedent to a full search launch is necessary for our success. Bringing a senior pastor into our current climate and structure is not a viable option. We’ve started work with consultant Rick Clapp’s visit just five weeks ago. That effort is focused on staff and session accomplishing improvement milestones prior to arrival of our new senior pastor. Thus, our search is moving step-at-a-time, focused on the long-term future of New Hope. As the work with Rick Clapp, session and staff progresses, and it is progressing, NL Moore will be ramping up their outreach. Nevertheless, the timing of our effort is dependent on clear progress by session and staff.

While we continue on this search journey, please continue to pray with us. Pray for not only our search committee but also the work of our staff and session as relates to the search. We have confidence in the path we are following and confidence that God has the right person already in hand who will match to both the short term challenges we have in our church and the long term opportunity at New Hope. Please pray with us that He reveals that person to us at the right time. Thank you.”