

Saint John Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas Pastoral Vacancy Announcement



The pastoral search committee of Saint John Baptist Church greets you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Believing that God is the One who calls pastors to shepherd His people (Jeremiah 3:15) we launch this search. The Saint John Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking God's choice for the position of Pastor at Saint John. The Pastor must be God fearing, demonstrate an enthusiastic love for Christ, possess and apply a comprehensive knowledge of the Bible, utilize the Baptist Doctrine, and have a clearly define vision for the Church.

Saint John Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, TX is a church family that values biblical preaching, heartfelt worship, and the Great Commission engagement above all else. At 115 years old, we are one of the oldest Baptist church on the city eastside of town. Through the years Saint John Baptist Church has enjoyed many seasons of numerical and spiritual growth but is currently experiencing a season of gradual decline.

At our highest in the past twenty years, we averaged 280 in worship attendance and 100 in small groups. Over the last three years, we have seen a gradual decline in attendance so that today we average 80 in worship and 50 in small groups. However, the morale of the church family has never been better. There is an excitement in the air and a fresh wind of expectation as we search for our next pastor.

Today, the age ranges of Saint John Baptist Church members reflect a shift in generational attendance patterns. In any given worship service today, 73% of our worshippers will be 65 yrs. old and up. Only three years ago, however, the average age would have been much younger. There are many unchurched young families in the community, and Saint John Baptist Church desires to be the church that reaches them with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Overall, Saint John Baptist Church is a warm and welcoming church family who is serious about the Great Commission, and about reaching the next generations in our community. We are excited about what God will do through the leadership of our next pastor.

Community Profile

The city of Wichita Falls, TX is home to 104,600 people. The majority of these are two-parent families with children in the home. There is, however, a significant population (31%) of single mothers within a 2-mile radius of our church. The people of Wichita Falls, TX make their livings in a wide variety of occupations including as business professionals, construction workers, school teachers and more.

The ethnic demographics are about normal for our county: 60% Anglo, 21.6% Hispanic, 12.5% African American, and 5.9% other. The median age of our community members is significantly lower than the Texas average, at 39 yrs. old. The economy of Wichita Falls, TX is thriving. There has been a 12% increase in population over the past ten years, and it is projected that we will see another population increase by the year 2025. Several new professional businesses have opened downtown in the last few years. The housing market is skyrocketing.

The Wichita Falls Independent School District has recently passed a bond election for the construction of two new high school campuses.

Wichita Falls is also home to Midwestern State University, an accredited four-year college and the only independent liberal arts college in Texas offering both bachelors and masters degrees. A local branch of nearby Vernon College offers two-year degrees, certificate programs, and workforce development programs, and also Wayland Baptist University, which offers both bachelors and masters degrees.

Overall, the community of Wichita Falls, TX is thriving and growing. As the population is increasing and demographics are becoming more diverse, there is still a feel of togetherness and friendliness in the city. Wichita Falls, TX is a great place to live and raise a family.

Pastor Profile

The Pastor Search Committee of Saint John Baptist Church sought the input of our church family to help us understand the kind of man we will be searching for in our next pastor. Conversations have been full of joyful expectation, and while there was a wide range of variety on answers in some degree, there was great unity overall.

Saint John Baptist Church is searching for a pastor who is committed to the inerrancy and authority of the Bible. He will agree with the Baptist Faith and the message of building the Church through vision, planning, and personal growth to serve the present age and coming generations as well as lead our church on the strong foundations of biblical authority. We desire a pastor who will provide the overall biblical, theological and spiritual leadership to the congregation. A pastor who will work with the Church Leadership Team to provide cultural and organizational leadership to help the congregation achieve its vision.

Our next pastor will be an easily approachable man who is skilled in relationship building. He will lead our staff with a team-based approach but will steward well the authority of the office of pastor for all matters of final say. He will value the insight of long-time members of the church, but not cater to anyone (or group's) desire to the neglect of another's. He will make biblical decisions concerning the direction of the church and communicate them with grace while leading gently over time.

We desire a pastor who models faithful leadership in the home and allows that to overflow into his leadership at church.

Job Description

Title: Pastor

Purpose: The Pastor provides the overall biblical, theological and spiritual leadership to the congregation. The Pastor works with the Church Leadership Team to provide cultural and organizational leadership to help the congregation achieve its vision, mission and values.

Minimum Training and Experience: A Bachelors Degree with applicable training and experiences in Divinity which should qualify a person to pastor and administer a Baptist church.

Special Requirements:

1. Converted and called to the pastoral ministry.
2. Licensed and ordained as a minister of the Gospel of Baptist churches.
3. Spiritual and personal integrity and maturity.
4. Ability and willingness to share Christ and disciple to others.
5. Positive human relations skills.
6. Obvious motivational skills.
7. Ability to communicate well through a pulpit ministry.
8. Proven love for the fellowship of a local church.
9. Ability to empathize with the deep concerns of the congregation.

Essential Functions:

Note: This information is intended to be descriptive of the key responsibilities of the position. The list of essential functions below does not identify all duties performed.

1. Responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- a. Plan and conduct worship services, prepare and deliver sermons, and serve as the lead in the observance of ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper).
- b. Lead and teach members and visitors in weekly prayer meetings and Bible Study.
- c. Visit the sick and shut ins.
- d. Lead the Church's evangelical growth and effectiveness beyond the walls of the Church.
- e. Establish a presence in the community with outreach programs and projects.
- f. Inspire and motivate church members to operate in a spirit of excellence while using their gifts and talents for God.
- g. Provide pastoral counseling, perform wedding ceremonies, conduct funerals, and perform dedication services of children.
- h. Lead in planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and evaluating the Church ministries.
- i. Work with the leadership and members as they perform their assigned responsibilities and facilitate their training.
- j. Preside over all business meetings of the Church.
- k. Work with the leadership and finance department to manage the varied resources of the congregation with effectiveness and efficiency.

2. Qualifications and giftedness should be pursuant to 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:6-9, 1 Timothy 5:17, 2 Timothy 2:24-25 (Holy conduct), Malachi 3:10 (Tither), and Galatians 5:22-23. (Christian Conduct)

The successful candidate will meet the following qualifications:

- a. Must be a licensed, ordained Baptist Minister in accordance with the Baptist Doctrine and Procedures that has received the Divine calling and has demonstrated the commitment to the call.
- b. Must have 2 to 3 years Baptist Church pastoral experience.
- c. Prefer Bachelor's degree and/or accredited seminary degree.
- d. Must have church administration and organizational skills.
- e. Must have a clear understanding of the Baptist Doctrine and Articles of Faith.
- f. Must be an effective communicator, demonstrate the ability to prepare and deliver biblically sound lessons and messages.
- g. Prefer a record of community involvement.
- h. Must be willing to support and participate in local, State and National Baptist Conventions such as the National Baptist convention, USA, Inc., Texas State Missionary Baptist Convention, Inc., and the Original West Texas Baptist District Association, Inc.
- i. Must be committed to church growth and membership retention.
- j. Must be able to articulate a vision for the church that emphasizes spiritual growth and development.
- k. The pastor must serve to provide spiritual leadership that will lead the congregation to live in service for Christ.

3. All applicants must provide the following information:

- a. Letter of Intent (Cover Letter)
- b. Copy of Ministerial License
- c. Sealed Official Verification of Theology training/Degree
- d. Completed Application
- e. Five (5) letters of recommendation (2 clergy, 1 personal and 2 layperson)
- f. Other information/items may be required throughout the interview process

4. Salary and Benefits

The salary for this position will depend upon the successful candidate background and qualifications.

5. To Apply

All correspondence should be forwarded to:

Saintjohnbaptistchurch@yahoo.com

Or

Saint John Baptist Church
P.O. Box 94
Wichita Falls, Texas 76307

Attn: Pastoral Search Committee

*Note: If possible please attach or provide links to (or a USB drive containing) at least three sermons, video is preferred but audio will be accepted.

