

Dear Kirby Woods Baptist Church Family:

After many months of intense prayer and begging God to reveal the man He has for our church, the Kirby Woods Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee rejoices in His answer to that prayer. God has worked through ten extremely diverse people to lead us to one man out of over 300 applicants.

We saw the Lord knit our hearts together, seeking His divine wisdom in determining the traits our next pastor should have. God told us we needed a man who could preach His word with excellence, who had strong leadership qualities, who had a vision for the future of Kirby Woods Baptist Church, and who would love the members of our church with the tender love of our Lord Jesus Christ. Asking God for a man with all of those traits was a tall order, but we truly believed that he was somewhere in that mountain of resumes we pored through week after week.

We watched God perform a miracle when we were prayerfully considering two candidates and one of them withdrew at the very moment we were interviewing the other! Thanks be to God for this gift of divine leadership in our midst. We knew without a doubt He was leading us away from one pastor and toward the other.

After months of prayerful consideration, deep discussion, and diligent research, all ten members of the Pastor Search Committee unanimously and joyfully present Pastor Thad L. Key as our candidate for Senior Pastor.

Pastor Thad stands out to us as the man to lead Kirby Woods. The winds of change are blowing across KWBC. God has brought us low and pruned us so He can do a mighty work - a work He alone can do. God's Holy fire is still burning at Kirby. We believe the Lord is about to ignite a blaze far greater than any we have seen before.

A native of Alabama, Pastor Thad has been a Senior Pastor for the past nine years in both Virginia and Georgia. Over the course of these years, he has served two churches, leading both of these congregations to health and growth. Prior to these pastorates, he served in various other ministry roles for six years. Early signs of the gift of preaching were evident when Pastor Thad was the first freshman recipient of the R. G. Lee Preaching Award at the University of Mobile as a student in 2000. He earned his doctorate degree in expository preaching, with his doctoral thesis, "Preaching the Seven Churches of Revelation 2-3". His preaching stood out above other candidates to all members of the Pastor Search Committee; he is a gifted expositor and faithful preacher who communicates the message of the Scriptures to both churched and unchurched people (2 Tim. 3:16-4:5). Pastor Thad takes sermon preparation seriously, devoting four mornings a week to devotion and study.

As a shepherd, Pastor Thad is a man who loves the people of God. He has demonstrated genuine love for the people in his congregations and they have loved him in return. Also, Pastor Thad is passionately focused on welcoming and following up with guests. Both he and his staff

build one-on-one relationships and follow a detailed process for follow-up. Further, he believes in equipping the saints to do the work of ministry to grow the body of Christ (Eph. 4:12-16). To this end, both new and prospective members are expected to follow a growth track which helps every member become involved in both discipleship opportunities and service ministries inside and outside the church.

It is especially worth pointing out that Pastor Thad has led the two churches he pastored to grow through creating a culture of outreach. The congregation he currently leads has experienced over 230% growth with a surge in both baptisms and membership. Following Jesus' command to "make disciples" (Mt. 28:16-20), Pastor Thad places great emphasis on communicating and executing a clear, concise and measurable vision for fulfilling the Great Commission. For instance, Sunday mornings are planned with not only members, but guests (including church and unchurched) in mind.

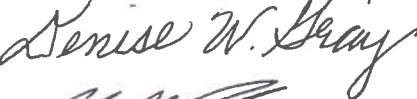
If our congregation affirms Pastor Thad to be the Senior Pastor at Kirby Woods, he would seek to cast and promote a vision to fulfill the Great Commission. Once the vision is clearly communicated, he would be committed to leading our staff and congregation in taking the necessary steps to reach new people, both saved and unsaved.

With this in mind, we as your Pastor Search Committee wholeheartedly recommend to you Pastor Thad Key to be our new Senior Pastor at Kirby Woods Baptist Church.

Sincerely,

The Kirby Woods Baptist Church Pastor Search Committee

Richard Bushart (Chair) 

Denise Gray 


Matt Parker 

Emily Russell 

Steve Summy 

Dempsey Fisher 

Julia Jones 

Kathy Petermann 

David Skinner 

Jimmie Williams 