

Seeking a Pastor like This

1/5/23

Finesville Church is a unique congregation that is seeking an equally unique shepherd. While the man we are seeking must give clear evidence of both his salvation and his calling, will have the training and experience necessary, and if married, is above reproach when it comes to his own marriage and/or family, we desire a man who shows spiritual maturity, grace, and wisdom in every area of his life.

Yes, he will be in agreement with and able to communicate the Articles of Faith and Biblical Principles of Living of the Bible Fellowship Church, but even those should be subservient to the Word of God from which they flow. He will be ordained with the Bible Fellowship Church or will seek credentials with the denomination.

The teaching and preaching of the Scriptures is of great importance, but being a Pastor with a shepherd's heart is the means by which the Word is taught and applied at Finesville. We are seeking a loving shepherd who will care for the flock, guide and challenge his people, walk beside them through the joys and challenges of life, know them and share life with them. One of the privileges of ministry in a country church is the opportunity for in-depth relationships across the congregation. While pastors are called to be professionals who at times are visionaries, administrators, leaders, authorities on the Word, evangelists, and more, the most effective Finesville Pastor will be one whose heart for his people is predominant and woven through all he does, a man with a servant's heart.

Finesville has elders and deacons who serve beside the Pastor. Communication between him and these leaders is deeply important. In that a smaller congregation isn't encumbered by committees nor a great deal of structure, his help as a motivator, an encourager, a co-worker who knows, develops, and involves the giftedness of his people will be of great value. He will also be the kind of man who serves in any way he asks others to serve, not ruling nor lording it over them.

The pastor should strive to have visibility, relationship, involvement, and impact with families in the community as well as the church membership. As the only church in Finesville, we and our pastor are respected, appreciated, recognized as those who care about those around us.

A pastor is *called* rather than *hired*. If he is married, the ideal would be that the pastor's wife shares in that calling to minister by his side, loving and being involved in the congregation, using her gifts as others do for the glory of God and the strengthening of the church family. If he has a family, they will be respected, included, not held on a pedestal or viewed with unfair expectations beyond the rest of the congregation. If the Pastor and his wife do have children, the congregation will be caring, supportive, understanding, a church family who will welcome, enjoy, and encourage the Shepherd's children.

Finally, the Shepherd for Finesville will find a joyful opportunity to serve a committed, loving church family with needs and weaknesses as well as tremendous gifts and strengths. When challenges or changes come, working through the same as a family based on biblical values, listening ears, understanding hearts and deep love for one another will continue to move us forward with godly unity. We want our Pastor to know the joy, the privilege, the blessing of ministering in a unique, loving, committed country church family and community like ours.

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