Union Church of Guatemala

“Preparing for Transition”

May 27, 2018

1. Where we’re at
   1. This past Monday, the Pastor Search Committee presented to the Board of Elders the two best candidates that resulted from the process set in place to select a new pastor for our church.
   2. It was a long process and involved a lot of work.
   3. The elders were made aware of all the steps in the process and how we got to selecting the two men that were presented.
   4. They were also encouraged to consider the criteria defined by the search committee as a guide in their own evaluation process.
   5. Tomorrow, the elder board will meet to make a decision after having had a brief Skype interview with both candidates and discussed their conclusions.
   6. Please pray for us!
2. What does this mean for us? How do we prepare?
   1. Scripture outlines for us some principles that are useful in our relationship to church leadership, principles that charge us with important responsibilities that we need to begin to own and actively participate.
   2. Church is a community endeavor, not a one-man show
      1. Ephesians 4:1-6 - Our call to unity
         1. God has called us from our very diverse nationalities, life experiences and church/denominational backgrounds ***to be united in THIS church***.
         2. Because of this sacred call, we are to conduct ourselves ***as a church*** in a way that reflects the Gospel, as Jesus taught us (John 13:35).
      2. Ephesians 4:11-16 - To do this, we have been given different offices that, exercised faithfully, will result in the ***building up of the body of Christ, the church***.
      3. We are all in this ***together***
   3. We are called to be vigilant about what we are taught, like the Bereans
      1. Acts 17:1-9 – some context
         1. Paul has arrived to teach in Thessalonica and preached to them the Gospel in a bold, clear and well-reasoned manner – v.1-3
         2. Many people came to faith – v.4
         3. But among the “traditional” crowd, dissent arouse out of ***jealousy*** and false accusations were made -v.5-7
      2. Acts 17:10-12
         1. What made the Bereans different from the Thessalonians? -v.11
            1. Eagerness to learn
            2. Going back to the source to confirm ***the truth*** of what is being taught
         2. What was the result? Conversions!!! -v.12
   4. As Christians and members of a local church, we are called to hold our church leadership accountable for the work they do, especially in regard to the teaching of ***sound doctrine***.
      1. This means that ***we need to do our homework***
      2. ***PLEASE, HOLD US ACCOUNTABLE! SPEAK UP! WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU!***
   5. At the same time, and in a beautiful tension/paradox, we are called to faithfully support and submit to the spiritual authorities God has placed over us in our church
      1. Martin Luther laid out this tension very well:
         1. ***“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.[[1]](#footnote-1)”***
      2. Hebrews 13:7-9
         1. Remember your leaders (and what they are supposed to do), and evaluate their lives and testimony in order to ***imitate them*** -v.7
         2. However, we are always and solely grounded in Jesus – v.8
         3. Stand firm in the faith and in sound doctrine (***the Gospel***), so that we may be ***strengthened by grace*** – v.9
      3. Hebrews 13:17
         1. As we transition towards new leadership in our church, we need to give our support to whomever comes and to those who continue to work alongside him.
3. Why?
   1. Hebrews 13:20-21
      1. Because of the Gospel – v.20
      2. For the sake of our sanctification, growth and the glory of God the Father, through Jesus Christ – v.21
   2. Let’s move forward and embrace this transition with faith and expectancy! God is with us!

1. <http://www.jmstanton.com/Docs/Martin%20Luther%20-%20On%20the%20Freedom%20of%20a%20Christian%20with%20lines.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)