



PASTOR SEARCH TEAM RECOMMENDS

Trea Brinson

AS THE LEAD PASTOR OF
EAGLE'S LANDING FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 15, 2020



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Meet the Brinsons

Trea and his bride, Cayla, have three beautiful girls, Rilynne, Raegan, and Reece, and a handsome son, River. Trea and Cayla met in Raleigh-Durham while Trea attended Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and served as a local College and Singles Pastor. One of Trea's college students invited her friend to church...and the rest is history. The two became friends and three years later said, "I do."

Trea and Cayla moved to Valdosta, GA to start a Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapter at Valdosta State University (VSU). Trea previously served with the Baptist Campus Ministry at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Trea and Cayla have a huge passion for college students and were thrilled to move to VSU. There, they witnessed the Lord move in a mighty way as the school's FCA chapter grew to more than 300 students and athletes in its first three years. This growth led their pastor to challenge them to consider planting a church.

Less than a year later, Trea and Cayla (now with Rilynne and Raegan) surrendered to the call of planting Restoration Church in Wake Forest, NC. Restoration Church is a part of the Summit Network with two sending churches: Crosspointe Church (Valdosta, GA), and Summit Church (Raleigh-Durham, NC). For the last six years, Trea has served as the Lead Pastor and Planter. The church has seen many changes in that time: meeting locations, congregation size increases, new partnerships with domestic and international church plants, and, most importantly, transformed hearts. They have seen more than 100 people follow Jesus in believer's baptism.



Endorsements

From the time that I felt God stirring in my heart to step into this new role to help pastors and their families with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board, I have been praying for our church family and for the man God would bring to be our next Lead Pastor.

Then as the search team was comprised, I began to pray for the Lord to direct them clearly in every step of the search. It has been a powerful and joy-filled journey in prayer and God has been faithful.

Back in October as I began to pray daily for our next pastor I asked the Lord to bring a man that had genuinely been captivated by the grace of God in salvation and has never gotten over it, a man who possessed the distinct call of God on his life to preach the word and pastor his people, a man who was overwhelmed at the thought that God would choose to use him to serve and lead the church, a man who was humble, a man who was gifted to lead, a man who from the very beginning would love our church family and possessed a heart to call our community home. I have found the Lord has indeed answered my prayer. It is my great joy to join the recommendation of the search team to affirm Trea Brinson as our next Lead Pastor. I believe as you meet him you will love him and his sweet family as you have loved my own!

As the great missionary William Carey said, “The future is as bright as the promises of God.”

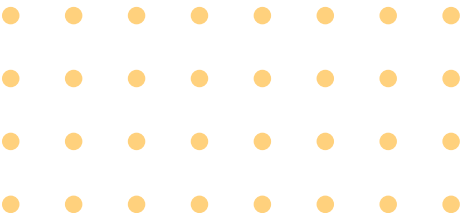
Keep on living for Jesus!

PASTOR TIM DOWDY

Lead Pastor, Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church



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Trea and Cayla Brinson have been a part of the Summit Church and Summit Network family for many years. Their love for Jesus is obvious and infectious. Trea is a gospel-centered pastor who preaches with passion, leads with integrity, and is committed to making disciples of all nations. Few leaders embody what it looks like to love the gospel and love your people like Trea Brinson. And he preaches like he leads, with warmth, humility and effectiveness. I am excited to see how God continues to use him in the future.

JD GREEAR

President, Southern Baptist Convention

Pastor, Summit Church



Southern
Baptist
Convention

Trea Brinson is a wonderful man in whom I have the greatest confidence. He loves Christ, the Bible, and the Church. He has a passion for the nations and the lost, and I believe any church would be blessed by his ministry.

DANIEL AKIN

President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



I consider myself blessed to have Trea Brinson as a friend and a pastor. As a friend, he's taken personal interest in my life and ministry. As a pastor, he's shepherded me and our entire congregation to take personal interest in our city in order to penetrate it with the gospel. I'm thankful for God's grace in allowing me to serve with him as co-laborers for Christ.

JIM SHADDIX

Professor of Preaching, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Member, Restoration Church



I'm so excited to be able to recommend my good friend, Trea Brinson. Not only is he a great husband and father, he is also a tremendous leader with a heart for the local church. I have been consistently impressed with his desire to follow the Lord, his love for God's people, and his wisdom beyond his years. I believe Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church will be blessed beyond measure by the Brinson family. I look forward to what the Lord is going to do and will watch with anticipation as you partner together to impact the nations with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

JIM PURDUE

Pastor, Second Baptist Warner Robins



Trea and Cayla Brinson's passion for taking the gospel to others was immediately evident when I met them over ten years ago. Trea and Cayla just simply love Jesus and His people. Calm, approachable, humble, teachable, teacher, preacher, and visionary are just a few of the words that describe Trea. Eagle's Landing would be blessed to have the Brinsons come as Lead Pastor and family. I am beyond excited about the future.

JIMMY BAUGHUM

Executive Director of Atlanta Metro Baptist Association

Former Executive Pastor, Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church ('01-'07)



It is my pleasure to recommend Trea Brinson to the congregation of Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church. His commitment to student ministry with FCA and his focus on growing the local church through the intentional exposition of Scripture will be a blessing to both church and school.

CHUCK GILLIAM

Head of School, Eagle's Landing Christian Academy



After meeting Trea Brinson, it doesn't take long to realize two things about him—he loves God and he loves people. Trea's love for God and others fuels his ability to lead his family and church well. He has been such a blessing to me personally and to our community at large. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for both Trea and Eagle's Landing.

ART RAINER

Vice President of Institutional Advancement,
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary



Trea has a deep desire to see churches evangelize nonbelievers, make genuine disciples, plant reproducing congregations, and reach the nations. He longs to see people follow the Lord without reservation.

CHUCK LAWLESS

Dean of Doctoral Studies, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
Team Leader of Theological Education Strategists, International Mission Board
Pastor of Equipping Ministries, Restoration Church



RESTORATION
CHURCH



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

I watched Trea and Cayla serve the coaching staff and students on the Valdosta State campus. It was amazing to see the relationships they built, their work ethic, and overall joy they had. My family and I are blessed to have been served by them.

ROBBY BROWN

Quarterbacks Coach, Miami Dolphins



Voting Process

We are walking through a new and exciting journey for our church family. God has been gracious in providing such longevity among our staff that this is the first time in more than 30 years we have needed to seek His guidance for a new Lead Pastor. The search team has been entrusted with the responsibility of leading the search process and presenting one candidate to our congregation for consideration. Over the next week we ask you as our church family to be fervent in prayer as we present Trea Brinson as our next Lead Pastor.

Next Sunday, March 22, we will introduce Trea and his family to our congregation. Because we have two campuses we will have one service at each campus on that day. Trea will preach at Eagle's Landing Griffin at 9:30am, and he will preach at the McDonough campus at 11am. Both services will end with a vote by ballot to affirm Trea as our Lead Pastor. At the end of the McDonough campus service we will compile the results of the votes from both campuses and announce the results, time permitting. Each active member of our church can vote once. Our bylaws stipulate that at least a three-fourths majority of the active members present and voting is needed to officially call a new Lead Pastor.

Pastor Search Team

Kevin Anderson

Chris Ivey

Doug Campbell, Sr.

Adam Pollock

Keith Colvin

David Smith

Spooky Craddock

Keith Thompson

Ted Echols

Scott Vinson

Michael Garrison

Kenny Williams

Wes Holder
(Chairman of Search Team)

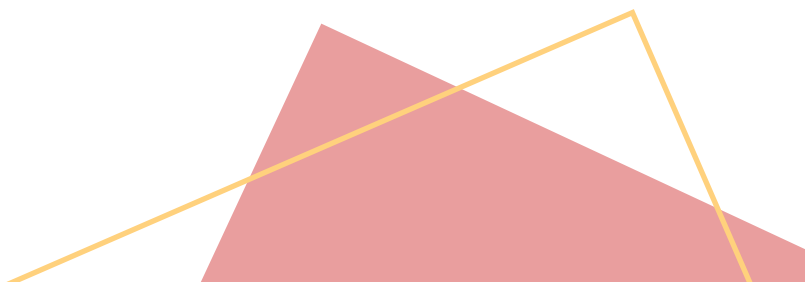
Stephen Henry
(Non-voting advisory role)

If you have questions concerning Trea Brinson and his potential role as Lead Pastor prior to the vote, you can drop in with any questions on Wednesday, March 18 from 6pm-8pm in Life Center Conference Room (LC201)

The Search Journey

- On October 6, 2019, Pastor Tim Dowdy met with the Leadership Team of Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church to discuss God's new call to him as Lead Strategist for Pastor Wellness at the Georgia Baptist Mission Board.
- The Leadership Team reviewed church bylaws and enacted the prescribed protocol for creating a Pastor Search Committee (Search Team).
 - The bylaws state, "In the event of a vacancy in the position of Pastor, a replacement and/or fill-in shall be considered by a Pastor Search Committee consisting of the Leadership Team and five members of the Deacon Team, as elected by the Deacon Team. If the church has an executive pastor or administrative pastor, he will serve in an advisory role as an ex-officio member, without vote, of the Pastor Search Committee."
- On October 13, 2019, Pastor Tim met with the Deacon Team and informed them of his plans. The Deacon team elected five members to serve on the Search Team.
- An interim pastor was not needed as Pastor Tim agreed to continue to preach and lead the church until the new Lead Pastor answers God's call.
- Pastor Tim's new role at the Georgia Baptist Mission Board began January 1, 2020. The GBMB was gracious to give him the flexibility to remain involved with the ministry of the church while fulfilling his new duties. He could still spend time each week in the church offices and even lead staff meetings.
- On October 20, 2019, Pastor Tim informed the congregation of his intentions. The same day, the Search Team began their weekly meetings.
- The Search Team reviewed some 335 resumes from pastors in 15 states and three countries. Some candidates were personal referrals, some were submissions from state and national Baptist conventions, some were sought out by our team and some responded to job postings or our website.

- The Search Team made God's direction and guidance their primary focus from the very beginning. Much time was spent in prayer and fasting as a group and individually.
- Behind the scenes, church staff members spent approximately 75 hours building the Lead Pastor Search website, developing a system to track and monitor the progress of candidates, creating drafts of forms and documents that would be used during the process, and managing other organizational details to assist the Search Team.
- The first few meetings involved prayerful consideration and discussion about the application process, the qualifications of the Lead Pastor, roles of the Search Team, soliciting feedback from the congregation, and communication to and from the Search Team.
- One of the first decisions was to implement a time of prayer led by the Search Team every Sunday morning in the front lobby. It would be open to anyone who wanted to attend.
- The Search Team also posted a congregational survey to receive input on the Lead Pastor position. The survey was available for congregational input for two weeks. The data was collected and helped shape the search for our next lead pastor.
- After consideration of the results of the survey and internal search team discussions and prayer, the Search Team finalized the plan for the search process. The Search Team divided the tasks into subcommittees...resume team, application team, social media team, sermon team, pastoral and theological questionnaire team, and interview team. The steps are outlined on the next page.



The Application Process

STEP 1 Candidates submit their resume and short application.

STEP 2 The resume team reviews the resumes and filters the candidates.

STEP 3 Candidates submit their long application, links to sermons, and links to social media.

STEP 4 The application team reviews the application. The sermon team studies sermons, and the social media team searches through social media posts. The candidates are again filtered.

STEP 5 Candidates submit the pastoral and theological questionnaire.

STEP 6 The pastoral and theological team reviews pastoral and theological questionnaire and filters the candidates.

STEP 7 The interview team conducts the first interview with the candidate.

STEP 8 The entire Search Team discusses the interview. They evaluate the candidate and decide whether to proceed.

STEP 9 The second interview team conducts the second interview with the candidate.

STEP 10 The entire team discusses the interview. They evaluate the candidate and decide whether to proceed.

STEP 11 The entire team conducts an in-person meeting with the candidate and his wife. This is a multi-day trip. The trip will include meetings with the Search Team, Head of School, Executive Pastor, and Pastor Tim. The trip will also have a tour of the school, the Griffin campus, and the McDonough campus.

STEP 12 The entire team discusses the meeting after receiving input from the Head of School and Pastor Tim. They evaluate the candidate and decide to proceed or remove the candidate from consideration.

STEP 13 The Search Team focuses on one candidate if they feel confident that God is leading them in that direction.

STEP 14 Conduct reference checks.

STEP 15 Conduct background check, credit check, and motor vehicle record check.

STEP 16 The team verifies all reference and background checks are clear. At this point, the Search Team votes to finalize the recommendation to the church.

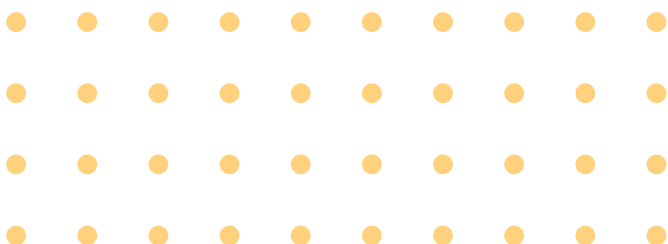
STEP 17 The church presents the salary and benefits package to the candidate.

STEP 18 The Search Team presents their recommendation to the church.

STEP 19 The candidate visits our campus and meets with various groups throughout the week.

STEP 20 The candidate preaches in view of a call by God.

STEP 21 The congregation votes by written ballot to affirm God's calling of the Pastor.



MARCH 22 REMINDER

GRIFFIN | ONE SERVICE AT 9:30AM

McDONOUGH | ONE SERVICE AT 11AM

Services will be followed by Business Meeting



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