

Brandywine Valley Baptist Church has embarked on one of the most significant processes any larger church goes through: finding its next Senior Pastor. Doing that really well together will grow out of our faith in God. We can trust God to lead our church through this transition in a way that honors Him. We have a lot of emotions about this transition. We should not underestimate their strength or importance, but we have to remember that trusting God matters more.

Central to this significant process is the Senior Pastor Search Team. We are charging them to find this congregation's next spiritual leader. You will meet them in a moment, and we will dedicate them to the task the Holy Spirit has laid on them. But first, let's put their task in its proper biblical setting – Acts 20:25-32.

A Painful Separation

The Apostle Paul was on his way to Jerusalem with an urgent task to complete that he could not delay. He chose not to stop in Ephesus where he had spent three years and founded and nurtured the church there. I wonder if he knew he wouldn't want to leave. But he did ask the elders of the Ephesian church to meet him in the coastal city of Miletus. They did, and Luke describes their bittersweet reunion in Acts 20. The apostle's words in verse 25 filled the elders' hearts with sorrow. **“Now I know that none of you among whom I have gone about preaching the kingdom will ever see me again.”** You and I face a similar separation within the next two years. Our lives have been intertwined for so long that we cannot part without a sense of loss. But extravagant discipleship bids us look beyond our personal emotions. The long-term well being of this church outweighs our feelings.