



Congregational Conversation #1

Greystone Baptist Church

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Bill Wilson





THE CENTER FOR HEALTHY CHURCHES

Our Mission:

CHC is devoted to improving the spiritual, emotional and organizational health of churches and ministers. We bring hope, help and healing in the spirit of Christ.



www.CHChurches.org

**The most
important
thing about
me...**





The Interim Process Timeline

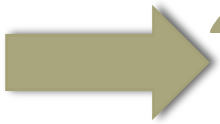
1. **PREPARATION:** Congregation chooses and embraces a model for navigating the Interim Season.
2. **SELF STUDY:** Congregation engages in a self-study of it's Past, Present and Future.
3. **ACTIVE SEARCH:** Search Committee is elected and engages in an active search for the next pastor, using insights from the self-study.
4. **CALL:** Search Committee brings a recommended candidate to the church for approval.
5. **BEGIN:** New pastor begins.





The Interim Process Timeline

You
Are
Here!



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The Congregational Self-Study

- Three congregational conversations:
 - **One dealing with the PAST**
 - How did we get here?
 - What is our congregational DNA?
 - What are the core positives of our church?
 - **One dealing with the PRESENT**
 - What is the current status of our church?
 - Where do we live? Who are our neighbors?
What is our ministry context moving forward?
 - **One dealing with the FUTURE**
 - What is our shared mission/vision as a church?
 - What kind of pastor does that imply that we should look for?



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The Greystone

Congregational Self-Study

- Two products will emerge from the Self-Study:
 - A **CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE** that accurately describes your church, it's history, current reality, and future orientation.
 - A **PASTOR PROFILE** that broadly describes the type of pastor you believe God intends to lead you into the next season of life as a church



Our work will unfold around three primary congregational conversations over several weeks.

- **February 4th**: Let's look at our **PAST**. Where did we come from? What do we bring with us as we face the future?
- **March 18th**: 4-5:30 p.m. Let's look at where we are **TODAY**. How do we accurately describe our congregation? Our community?
- **May 6th**: TBD. Let's look into the **FUTURE**. Where do we sense God leading us as a church? What/who do we sense our next pastor will need to do/be?

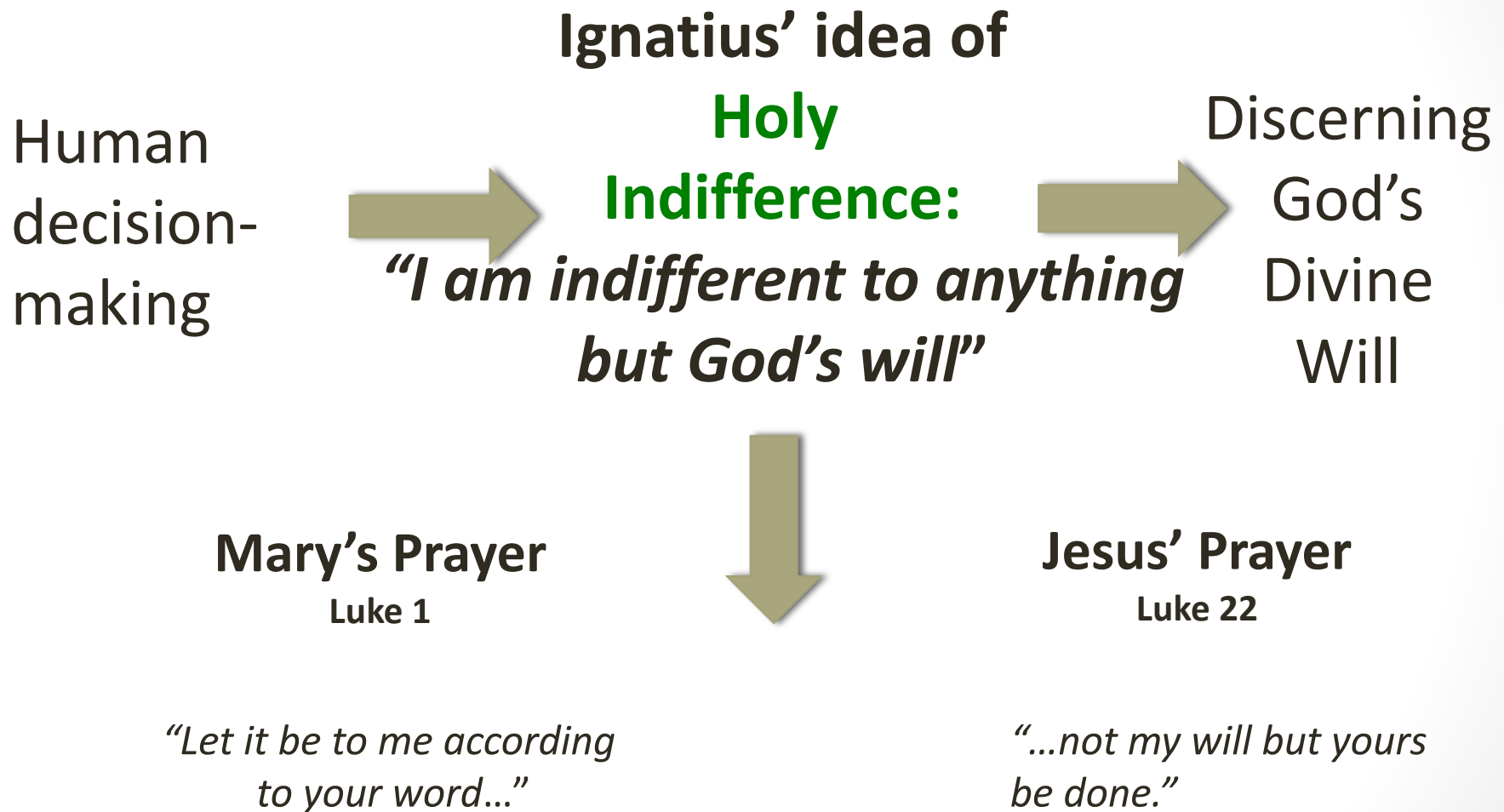


Key dates in the Greystone transition timeline:

- **April 2017:** Sean Allen resigns as your pastor
- **September 2017:** Randy Ashcraft begins as Interim Minister
- **February 2018:** Congregational Self-Study begins with Bill Wilson
- **May 2018:** Congregational Self-Study concludes
- **June 2018:** Active Pastor Search begins



Spiritual Discernment



The Spirit of INDIFFERENCE

God's Will

Nothing more

Nothing else

Nothing less

- 1. Is there anything I need to set aside so that I can be open to what God wants?
- 2. What needs to die in me in order for God's will to come forth in my life?



The Spirit of INDIFFERENCE

God's Will

Nothing more

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- 1. Is there anything **WE** need to set aside so that **WE** can be open to what God wants?
- 2. What needs to die in **US** in order for God's will to come forth in **OUR** life?



The 2nd Prayer: the Prayer for **WISDOM**

“If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly and it will be given you.”

James 1:5



Greystone Baptist Church

At the Center for Healthy Churches, we have some Core Values that guide our work:

1. This is an **SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT PROCESS** that uses Appreciative Inquiry methodology.
2. YOU are the experts on GBC. Not me. Not staff.
3. The process is radically congregational.
4. The conversations are integral to the process.
5. It will be messy. Process may trump product.
6. NO ONE gets everything they want.
7. The question we are trying to answer is **not** “What do you want for your church?”, but:
WHO DOES GOD INTEND US TO BE?



Purpose of today's conversation:

To look at our **history** and
celebrate where we have been,
who we have been and what we
have done.



A look at GBC's History and Timeline

- Take a closer look at the time line
- On **PINK** Post-It note write:
 - Your name
 - Date you connected to Greystone?



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- Answer the following on a **BLUE** sticky note:
 - *What was going on at GBC that drew you here?*
 - *What was GBC doing that attracted you?*
- Share at tables
- Add your sticky note to the time-line.



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- *Why do you continue to stay connected to GBC?*
- On the **YELLOW** sticky notes, write out a 1-3 word summary of your answer.



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- Discussion at the table
 - *When did this church become THE CHURCH for YOU?*
 - What was the essence of that experience? What traits or values did the church show in that experience?
- As a table group, list the central traits that helped make your stories possible.





Thank you for participating!

Our next Congregational Conversation is
March 18th, 4-5:30 p.m.

We will be talking about GBC **TODAY**

