



For Your  
**Prayerful Consideration**



# **Dr. Stephen Rummage**

In View of a Call as Senior Pastor of Quail Springs Baptist Church

# Schedule of **Events**

Friday, January 25

## **Dinner with QSBC Key Leaders**

**6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall** – Includes Deacons, Committee Leaders, and Spouses.

Saturday, January 26

## **Meet & Greet**

**10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall** – Come-and-go fellowship time with the Rummages. Light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served.

**11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** – At the Meet & Greet, Dr. Rummage and Michele will share briefly, and dialogue with the Search Committee to address key areas of interest.

Sunday, January 27

## **In View of a Call Sunday**

**8:15, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.** – Dr. Rummage will preach in all three morning Worship Services. Church Members will vote at the end of each service.

**5:30 p.m., Chapel** – Dr. Rummage responds to the vote in the Evening Worship Service.

**Voting Guidelines** | As we enter this time of calling a Senior Pastor, our Church Bylaws state: **Article 7.1b Nomination and Election.** When a vacancy occurs, a new Senior Pastor shall be chosen and called by the Members. A Senior Pastor search committee shall be appointed by the Members to search for a Senior Pastor. The committee shall bring to the consideration of the Members only one name at a time. Election shall be by secret ballot at a special business meeting called for the sole purpose of voting on the Senior Pastor nominee. . . **Article 12.5 Services and Meetings.** Members must be present in person to vote and shall not be entitled to vote by proxy. **Members** are those who have joined QSBC by profession of baptism, by statement of their faith, or by letter.

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# Presenting

# **Dr. Stephen Rummage**

Nominated by Your Senior Pastor Search Committee

Our journey began in February of 2018 when we met as a search committee to pray and set the course to find our next Senior Pastor. We sought counsel from QSBC leadership, from a church in Georgia that came highly recommended in their pastor search process, and from Oklahoma Baptist leaders.

Dr. Stephen Rummage, Senior Pastor of Bell Shoals Baptist Church in Brandon, Florida, was a name given in June of 2018. In our search committee meetings, we listened to at least three sermons of our top selected candidates. Dr. Rummage's sermons were evangelistic, understandable, and Bible-centered. It was at a point in July that we felt as a committee to follow the process of one man at a time and pursue conversations with him.

On September 28, the search committee flew to Atlanta, and he and Michele flew in from Tampa for a meeting in a hotel next to the Atlanta airport. We met Friday night until about 9:30 p.m. and met again Saturday, September 29, from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. After that meeting, we felt led to take the next step and visit his church. On October 14, we attended both worship services at Bell Shoals Baptist in Brandon, Florida. We then agreed we wanted Dr. Rummage and Michele to come to Oklahoma City to see our fair city, visit with the committee again, and take a tour of QSBC. The Rummages came to Oklahoma City on November 14, met with the search committee and were offered the opportunity, if led, to come to QSBC in view of a call.

In a phone conversation with the Pastor Search Committee in December, Dr. Rummage said that he and Michele felt led to accept our offer to come in view of a call. That leads us to the present day. – **Dr. Jim Hawkins, Senior Pastor Search Committee Chairperson**



# A Note From **Dr. Rummage**

Dear Quail Springs Baptist Church Family,

Michele and I praise the Lord for the time we have had with your Pastor Search Committee discovering how God is working at your church. As we have prayed, we believe deeply that coming to Quail Springs is God's direction for our lives.

Over the past months, God has worked to prepare our hearts for this transition. One of the passages of Scripture that has been instrumental in my life recently is 2 Timothy 1:6, where Paul writes, "I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you." We are convinced that Quail Springs is God's chosen place for us to pursue the gifts and calling that God has placed on our lives for His glory.

As your Senior Pastor, my ministry will focus on teaching and preaching God's Word to lead Quail Springs in reaching people near and far with the gospel, developing disciples of Jesus Christ, and continuing to be a healthy, caring, and growing congregation.

As you can imagine, moving to Oklahoma represents a major change in our lives. We will be leaving behind our newlywed son, Joshua, and his wife, Morgan. We will also be saying goodbye to a fruitful ministry at our present church. Nevertheless, we are tremendously excited about what God has in store for Quail Springs and us. According to His Word, God graciously leads His people into new things and gives us peace and joy as we follow Him in faith.

We have peace and a sense of great passion because we know God has brought our path together with yours, and we look forward to being a part of the wonderful things He will do through Quail Springs in the future.

**With joy,**

**Stephen Rummage**

# Education

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, New Orleans, Louisiana  
Doctor of Philosophy in Preaching, Minor in Theology, December 1998

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina  
Master of Divinity with Biblical Languages, December 1993

University of North Carolina at Greensboro  
Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies, Minor in English, May 1990

# Pastoral Experience

Senior Pastor, Bell Shoals Baptist Church, Brandon, Florida, 2009-Present

- Average weekly attendance of over 3,400
- Average of 395 annual baptisms in 2017 and 2018

Co-Pastor, Hickory Grove Baptist Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, 2004-2009

- Average of 390 annual baptisms from 2004-2009
- Membership of 16,100 in 2009

Other Pastorates and Interim Pastorates include:

- First Baptist Church, Cary, North Carolina, 2003-2004 (Interim)
- Sunset Avenue Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, North Carolina, 2001-2003 (Interim)
- Gravel Hill Baptist Church, Clarksville, Virginia, 1998-1999 (Interim)
- Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church, Covington, Louisiana, 1994-1997
- Cedar Rock First Baptist Church, Castalia, North Carolina, 1992-1994

# Doctrinal Statement

Stephen's ministry is based on a strong commitment to the inerrancy, authority, and sufficiency of Scripture. He fully endorses the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. His personal ministry vision is to communicate God's Word in order to help people move forward in their faith and to lead the church to follow Christ and make disciples.

# Denominational Service

- President, Florida Baptist State Convention, 2016-2018
- Chairman, SBC Executive Committee, 2016-2018
- Member, SBC Executive Committee, 2006-2009, 2013-present
- Chairman, SBC Executive Committee Business and Finance Committee, 2014-2016
- Chairman, SBC Committee on Resolutions, 2016
- Member, SBC Committee on Resolutions, 2015
- Chairman, Committee on Order of Business, Florida Baptist Convention, 2012-14
- President, Florida Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference, 2012
- Second Vice President, Southern Baptist Convention, 2009-2010

# Selected Guest Speaking & Mission Journeys

- Elected to preach SBC "Convention Sermon" for June 2019 SBC Annual Meeting.
- Keynote speaker for the National Conference on Preaching, 2015 and 2018, and International Congress on Preaching, Cambridge, England, 2017.
- Preached "Convention Sermon" for North Carolina Baptist State Convention, 2009, and Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, 2011.
- Mission journeys to the Bahamas, Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, India, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Romania, and Thailand.

# Teaching & Academic Administrative Experience

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

Associate Professor of Preaching (full-time elected faculty), 1997-2004;

Director, Doctor of Ministry Program, 2001-2004; Visiting Professor of Preaching, 2004-Present.

# Personal Testimony



I trusted Christ as my Savior during the summer of 1975 and was baptized the following year. Years later, at age 17, I committed myself to follow Jesus in whatever He called me to do. Since that significant time in my life, the greatest desire of my heart has been to glorify the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; 10:31). Six months after I completed college God called me to preach the gospel, and I've been preaching ever since.

After spending a number of years as a seminary professor training future pastors and missionaries, God led me back to full-time pastoral ministry in 2004. He has given me the opportunity to lead two very large churches with multifaceted ministries and a wide opportunity to reach people globally with the gospel.

I have been amazed and humbled at how God has affirmed His calling on my life, gifting me to preach and teach the Bible, to win souls, to lead His church, and to minister to His people. Wherever I have served, I have emphasized expository preaching, prayer, and personal evangelism. By God's grace, all of the churches experienced growth in membership, baptisms, and giving.

My wife, Michele, was saved at a Vacation Bible School at our home church. We grew up together and were high school sweethearts. Following graduation from college, Michele began her career as a teacher in Christian and public schools. She received the Master of Arts in Christian Education with an emphasis in early childhood education from New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Throughout our life together, Michele has faithfully and sacrificially supported our son, Joshua, and me. Michele teaches a new believers' class for children, mentors other women, and is a frequent speaker at women's conferences. Other than salvation, God's greatest blessing to me is my family.



# Affirmations from **Pastor Search Committee**

Listening to Dr. Rummage preach many times I am more and more convinced that we have been led by God to him. In listening to his sermons, I see a humble servant who seeks to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit in seeking and saving the lost. One of his traits that is so profound is noted when he prays before preaching each message. Dr. Rummage nearly always says in his opening prayer, "move me out of the way and speak to us." In a day when sometimes salvation is a soft sell it is never so with Dr. Rummage. He always works into his sermons a plan for the lost to be saved. Amen for that! – **Dr. Jim Hawkins, Chairperson**

It has been a tremendous pleasure to get to know Dr. Stephen Rummage during our search process. Two things stick out to me that lead me to believe that he is equipped to be our next senior pastor. The first is his ability to preach God's word. Dr. Rummage has been given a tremendous gift that he employs for God's glory. The second is his love for people. All you must do is spend a few minutes with him and you feel the love and compassion he has for the church and the lost. Michele is an ideal helpmate for Stephen and his partner in ministry. They make a great team that will be a tremendous asset for QSBC. As the committee has prayed through 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and 1 Peter 5, it is evident that Dr. Rummage has all the qualities we need in the next Senior Pastor at Quail Springs Baptist Church. – **Matt Boggs, Vice-Chairperson**

It is clear that the Lord has called, equipped, and prepared Dr. Rummage to do the work of a shepherd. He epitomizes 1 Timothy 3 and does so with humility, purpose, and a dependence on the Lord. Michele's heart for children, her family, and Gospel-work is evident in all she does. She has been and will continue to be the perfect helper in Dr. Rummage's new role. I believe wholeheartedly that the Lord has called them to lead and serve at Quail Springs Baptist Church. – **Samantha Decker, Recorder**

The search for the next senior pastor of Quail Springs has been an amazing, God-led process. At every step along the way, we have seen God close doors that needed to be closed and open doors that needed to be open. Dr. Rummage is the man that God has led the Pastor Search Committee to call to be our next pastor. He is not only a pastor that...

will feed and encourage the flock, but he is a preacher that will challenge the church to be doers of God's word. As you look over his ministry, it is evident that God has gifted him as a leader and preacher of the Good News. He has a laser focus on only two days – sharing the gospel "today" and preparing people's souls for "that day." It is without reservation that I recommend Dr. Stephen Rummage to be the Senior Pastor of Quail Springs. – **John Mathena, Committee Member**

Seeking God's man to be our under-shepherd has led me to much prayer and searching scripture including Jeremiah 3:15 and Micah 5:4 specifically. Dr. Stephen Rummage, with God's equipping, can be that under-shepherd for Quail Springs Baptist Church. Dr. Rummage has gifts, abilities, and much experience in preaching, leading, evangelism, and missions. His commitment to following God's direction and passion for the souls of men will provide impetus for our church to reach our community and beyond. Michele is an active partner to him in marriage and ministry with an emphasis on children and families. She is engaging and purposeful. May we be faithful to God's call. – **Suzanne Lillard, Committee Member**

After much prayer, we invited Stephen and Michele Rummage to come in view of a call as our next senior pastor. They accepted our invitation after much prayer on their part. They come as a team who sought God's will independently and as a couple. They complement each other in marriage and ministry, and both feel that God has called them to QSBC. Our church is poised and ready to be challenged to take the next step in effectively reaching our community. Dr. Rummage will provide the pastoral leadership to help us accomplish that. He stated that God is calling him to "lead with love and vision." My prayer is that as he and Michele visit QSBC we will catch a glimpse of that vision and clearly see God's plan for the Rummages and our church. – **Dawne Pybas, Committee Member**

As the committee settled on the final 8 candidates and we began to listen to 3 sermons per man, it was evident to me that Dr. Rummage was special. His preaching style and content immediately drew me in and his conclusions always left me with a new sense of understanding. His commitment to see the lost come to faith will strengthen Quail's effort to reach our community for Christ. Dr. Rummage has the endearing qualities of selflessness and humility which make for good "shepherd" qualifications. His wife, Michele, is such a good partner and supporter in his ministry while being a strong leader in her own right in children's teaching and care. The strong commitment of Dr. Rummage to see Quail become a "Harvest" church is exciting and inspiring as we seek to build on the foundation laid for us by so many faithful hands. – **Brad Bidy, Committee Member**

# Pastor Search **Committee Members**

**Dr. Jim Hawkins**, Chairperson

**Matt Boggs**, Vice-Chair

**Samantha Decker**

**Dawne Pybas**

**Brad Bidy**

**Suzanne Lillard**

**John Mathena**

**Alternates:**

**Terri Hathcock**

**Brian Hobbs**



"So Christ himself  
gave the apostles, the  
prophets, the evangelists,  
the pastors and teachers,  
to equip his people for  
works of service, so that  
the body of Christ may  
be built up."

– **Ephesians 4:11-12**