

Belvedere Family Church Pastor Search Committee Selects Justin Okamoto

Justin Okamoto
July 20, 2021



Dear Brothers and Sisters

This email is to update you on the results of the BFC Pastor Search. In May the Pastor Search Committee reached out to multiple candidates across the country regarding the BFC pastor's role. Four people expressed interest and ultimately two applied. After interviews and sermons, the Search Committee recommended Justin Okamoto as the candidate for Head Pastor and presented that recommendation to the full Council. With additional discussion and consideration, the Council submitted Justin Okamoto's name as the recommended candidate to President Naokimi and Rev. Edner Pierre-Louis. After a brief meeting with President Naokimi, the choice was approved on July 7th. Some of you may have heard the news from Dr. Kone's final sermon as head pastor.

For now, Justin will serve as the "acting" pastor until his official Installment Service on August 8th. As you may know, he is also currently working at FFWPU Headquarters part-time. He will conclude that role by the end of August and will focus fully on the local community as the full-time pastor. He has determined to complete his UTS education starting in September which will enhance the knowledge and skills he brings to the role, but will not interfere with his full-time commitment.

Even though Dr. Kone gave his final sermon as head pastor he will still be around (he and his family found a place in Tarrytown!) to support the community. Especially until September, he will be acting as an advisor to Justin as well as available for counseling when requested, blessing interviews, and even potentially a sermon in August. Following Justin's installation, the Council will work with him to create a support or advisory situation, including possibly, additional pastoring staff.

In the meantime, let's do our best to support our leadership during this time of transition. If you have any concerns or comments you'd like to share with the Council, you may contact Grace Ross at graceross24@gmail.com, Noah Ross at noahross72@gmail.com, Raoul Joseph at luoar48@gmail.com, or Susan Bouachri, by email at sbouachri@gmail.com.

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