

Cuba First Baptist Church

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Good News Letter

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This is a 4 page special edition newsletter containing all the information compiled by the Search Committee regarding the pastoral candidate, Rev. Lynn Sullivan.

A word from the Search Committee,

We are excited to introduce Rev. Lynn Sullivan to the congregation next week. Rev. Sullivan has met or exceeded all qualifications for the head pastor's position. The committee voted unanimously to "call" Lynn as our number one choice for the full-time pastorate of Cuba First Baptist. We humbly ask you to allow her experience, qualifications, and ministry style to speak for itself as you consider her for your future pastor.

All are welcome to attend a meet and greet "potluck" style dinner on Saturday July 15th at 5pm, where you can introduce yourself, get to know Lynn, and to ask her personally about her spiritual journey and ministry approach. (See below for more information on the dinner.) The next day, Sunday 16th, **all are again welcome** to hear her preach and participate in our morning worship. Following worship, **all eligible members** are invited to vote to decide if Cuba First Baptist will extend the official call to Rev. Sullivan and move toward installing her as our next pastor.

We take this opportunity to share how the vote works and who is an **eligible member**. The following is copied from the church constitution (emphasis added):

The *committee* shall investigate the *merits of every person under consideration* in regard to personal character, education, ministerial record, and preaching ability, in determining fitness for said pastorate. The Candidate shall be an *ordained Baptist Minister* upholding and abiding by "The Code of Ethics of American Baptist Ministers". When a suitable person is found, the committee shall *recommend said candidate to the Church for consideration*. The call of a Pastor shall *come before the Church* at a regularly called business meeting, and its purpose having been read from the pulpit on *two successive Sundays*. A *vote of three-quarters (3/4)* of the *members present and qualified to vote* shall be necessary to extend a call. Only *one candidate* shall be presented to the Church at one time. The vote shall be by *written ballot*. At least 25 qualified voters shall constitute a quorum. On all other matters, members of church or congregation in good standing and *fifteen years of age*, or older, are entitled to vote. Definition of a member in good standing: One who is faithful in living out the spirit of the church covenant, regularly attending church services and activities; contributing to this church and its wider mission; serving according to one's talents and abilities.

Please see the constitution for full context of these articles. A PDF version is available on the church website, <http://cubafirstbaptist.org/>, or contact church office at 585.968.1531.

Your search committee members are Skip Wilday, Claudia Little, Melissa Grover, Karen Strahan, Bill Beck, Carol Shaffer, and Kelsey Pierce

A brief biography.....

Here is some basic information on Rev. Lynn Sullivan. She is currently serving at The First Baptist Church of Ogdensburg. They have a great website where you can see the activity of that church and also hear sermons presented by Lynn. The website is <http://www.fbcogdensburg.org/>.

The ABC ordained Rev. Sullivan in 2003. She has served in Ogdensburg for the past 12 years where she led the church through numerous missional projects, conducted services at 3 different assisted living facilities, and performed all of the duties that were presented by the church. Prior to Ogdensburg, Lynn served the Federated Church of Athens (Athens, NY) for 7 years. She is extremely active in ABCNYS ministries. She served as president of ABCNYS (2010-2012), and serves as chair for the Committee on Ministry, Vice-Moderator for her association, President of the local ecumenical ministerial association and loves serving as a mentor for the Nehemiah Leadership Network clergy group.

To quote Lynn “I model a missional leadership style. I am impassioned to help others discover and discern the power of God at work in their lives, to build a renewed community of reconciliation, health, caring and justice and to propagate and lead ministry groups/teams intentional on meeting specific human needs and hopes through the love of Christ.”

Rev. Sullivan is single, has 3 children (all grown) and would live in our parsonage. She has visited the church and the area recently during our interviewing process.

The committee based their selection on the information supplied by the input of the church family through the numerous surveys, the concerns expressed, and the needs of the church noted. Rev. Sullivan meets and exceeds our hopes in every area.

We ask that the congregation prayerfully consider this applicant, attend the informal gathering on July 15th, and the service on July 16th where a vote will take place immediately following the service. **This will be a written ballot for church members.**

Please feel free to ask any questions of the committee. We strive to meet this task as a family and as a whole.

Come and meet Rev. Sullivan!



A potluck dinner will be held on **July 15th**, beginning at 5pm. Appetizers will be available from 5-6 (allowing a casual time to chat with Lynn). Dinner will be served at 6pm. Please bring a dish to pass – meat and rolls will be provided. **Please sign up in the court, so we can plan accordingly.**

This offers an opportunity to meet Rev. Sullivan, our pastoral candidate, before she preaches the message on Sunday (July 16th). Please plan to attend both events and continue to be a part of this transition process.

Reminder – a vote of church members will be taken after the service on July 16th.

An excerpt from Rev. Lynn Sullivan's Resume

I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior when I was only 5 years old through the ministry of a Sunday School teacher. Since then I have continually grown to have an abiding sense of God's presence, power, and love for me, the Church and for the world. I am energized by a deep Christ-centered faith marked by a life of prayer and expressed in practice. I am confident in God's call on my life to help identify and strengthen a congregation's gifts for ministry and to lead through my God-given gifts of preaching, teaching and pastoral care. I am able to work well with a wide array of groups and individuals in varying contexts.

I view the Church as a worshipping people who are alive to God and who respond in faithful love and service. The Church is an agent for God's love in the world, demonstrated by its understanding of and appreciation for its multicultural, multilingual, and multiracial qualities and gift which are instrumental in building up the Church and reaching out to all people. The Church's goal is to nurture and preserve its unity in Christ through discipleship and spiritual growth. Its task is the ministry of reconciliation: reaching outwardly to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Word and acts of love, mercy and justice so others may come to faith in Christ and a restored relationship with God.

As reflected in my vision of the Church, I model a missional leadership style. I am impassioned to help others discover and discern the power of God at work in their lives, to build a renewed community of reconciliation, health, caring, and justice, and to propagate and lead ministry teams/groups intentional on meeting human needs and hopes through the love of Christ.

I affirm the local church's connections with the wider ABC family (associations, regions, national) and other Christian organizations. These relationships can serve as valuable resources for collective wisdom and gifts for the building up and support of ministry in the local church and beyond. I have served as ABCNYS president (2010-2012), and am currently serving as chair for the ABCNYS Committee on Ministry, Vice-Moderator for my association, president of my local ecumenical ministerial association and as a mentor for a Nehemiah Leadership network clergy group.

I am seeking to serve a church that desires to grow deep and wide in its discipleship and mission, marked by a genuine spirit of compassion and forgiveness for one another and the world. My ideal ministry setting would continually seek to discern and follow God's will and would nurture its desires to serve Christ with creativity and hope.

I am a joyful, enthusiastic and energetic person who celebrates God's goodness and grace. My interests include nature, art, diverse cultures and travels. In my free time I enjoy paper crafts, scrapbooking, letterboxing and eating out.

