

The search committee is pleased to announce that they have found a candidate to present to the church family.

Rev Lynn Sullivan will be bringing the message on **July 16th, 2017 with a church vote to follow.** On **July 15th, everyone is invited to join together at a potluck dinner at 5pm, to enjoy a casual time of fellowship and an opportunity to meet and chat with Lynn.**

Here is some basic information on Rev 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 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. **(over)**

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. 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 our website <http://cubafirstbaptist.org/>, or contact the 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.