The Pastoral Search Committee and the Elder Board would like to present the following candidate for consideration of the position of Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church of Eugene:

DR. BEN CROSS

Personal and Family Information

- **Married for nearly 30 years to my wife, Mary**
- **Children: Jenae (28), Jonathan (26), Michelle (23), Sara (21)**
- **Grandchildren: Madison (3), Providence (1.5), Rosemary (2 months), Marylou (with the Lord)**
- **Foster Children: Jennifer, Jeanine (both 29)**
- **Ordained: May 1989, Willamette Valley CBA**
- **Interests: Landscape photography, backpacking, sports**

Spiritual Gifting

- **Preaching/ Teaching**
- **Leadership**
- **Wisdom**

Education

Gordon-Conwell Seminary—South Hamilton, Massachusetts
Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min.) in Expository Preaching, May 1999

Western Seminary—Portland, Oregon
Master of Divinity degree (M.Div.) in Pastoral Leadership, May 1989
Senior Preaching Award; Academic Award; Christian Service Award

Big Sky Bible College—Lewistown, Montana
Bachelor of Arts degree (B.A.) in Pastoral Leadership, May 1978

Continuing education over my nearly 30 years of pastoral ministry have included "countless" seminars and conferences on leadership, preaching, small groups, church growth, coaching, etc., including Son Life and Growing a Healthy Church Training.

Ministry Experience

Grace Community Church—Auburn, Washington (www.gccauburn.net)
***Senior Pastor*, January 1991 through September 2007 (16 years, 9 months)**

As *Senior Pastor*, I led a ministry staff of 50 part-time and full-time people, including a senior leadership team of eight people (including an executive assistant), in a church that averaged around 2,700 in total weekly attendance. One of my chief responsibilities was preaching in multiple weekend services about 40 weeks a year. Working with eight elders, I also took the lead in casting vision and providing strategic direction for the church. Our annual general budget was $3.6 million.

My approach to preaching is biblical exposition, whether I'm working through a book of the Bible, focusing on a selected passage(s), or dealing with topics of interest.

Accomplishments:

- **The number of regular attendees grew from approximately 1,200 to nearly 3,500.**
- **Completely rewrote the church's constitution and by-laws, streamlined and restructured the church's governance (from committee governed to elder governed)**

- **Successfully transitioned key ministries of the church by recruiting, hiring, and deploying new staff leadership. The staff grew from six pastors and seven support staff to15 pastors and 35 full and part-time staff.**
- **Decentralized GCC's ministry to the laity by establishing an extensive network of small groups in homes within geographical regions. In 1991, GCC had two small groups. Today, it has about 200.**
- **Led a successful capital campaign which included the acquisition of several adjacent properties (7 homes, 2 duplexes, a 54-unit apartment complex) and doubled the size of the facility from 40,000 to 80,000 sf. – a $6.5 million project.**
- **Led the church in overcoming a reputation of being "invisible" and irrelevant in the community to gaining a place of high public respect and positive influence through several effective service efforts/projects in the city, the business community, and the school district.**
- **Cast vision and facilitated the planting of two new churches in the region and participated in the support of other new churches.**
- **Led area pastors, across denominational lines, in joint-ministry to community.**
- **Served on a short-term missions team that built a translation center for Wycliffe Bible translators on Wuvulu Island (Papua New Guinea).**
- **Co-founded and served as first president of the Auburn Leadership Foundation.**
- **Awarded the status of Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary International.**
- **Sought out as keynote speaker for various domestic and international retreats / conferences.**
- **I received a 96% approval rating for my preaching ministry by the congregation at Grace- the highest rating the consultants conducting the study had ever seen in a church, especially one the size of Grace.**

After 16 years, I have been led that my time was complete at Grace, I resigned in Sept. 08 and since then have been enjoying a time of refreshment and in preparation for my next ministry, wherever God may lead.

Emmanuel Community Church—Portland, Oregon

***Co-pastor*, June 1987 to December 1990 (3 years, 5 months)**

Emmanuel was a church plant that I helped launch during my time as a student at Western Seminary. As *Co-pastor*, I was responsible for preaching, casting vision, counseling, small group leading, and discipleship training. A year following graduation from Western (three years after the church was planted), God called me and Mary to the church in Auburn.

Accomplishments:

- **Helped to successfully establish a viable church in southeast Portland.**
- **The church grew in three years from a Bible study to about 300 in weekly worship attendance.**

Lents Baptist Church—Portland, Oregon

***Associate Pastor*, November 1986 to June 1987 (8 months)**

I served briefly at Lents Baptist under Dr. John Johnson as a part-time associate during my first year of seminary at Western, until I helped plant Emmanuel Community Church. While at Lents I assisted the Senior Pastor with projects, preaching, teaching, planning, and limited counseling.

Dry Creek Bible Church—Belgrade, Montana

***Senior Pastor*—June 1978 to September 1986 (8 years, 4 months)**

Dry Creek Bible was a small rural church with about 25 people when we began serving there. As *Pastor*, I was responsible for a wide variety of ministries from preaching and teaching to leading home groups, discipling men, planning worship, leading worship, typing the bulletins, doing janitorial work, etc. Soon, the church began to grow and we added a full-time secretary and eventually a children's director and youth pastor.

Accomplishments:

- **The church grew from 25 to about 300 in regular attendance in multiple services.**
- **Composed a new constitution and by-laws.**
- **Broadcasted a weekly 30-minute radio program (Sunday AM sermons).**
- **Led a successful capital campaign that more than tripled the size of the facility with a new**

worship center and classrooms.

- Trained small group leaders and established a strong small group ministry as the church grew.

My Beliefs

In short, my beliefs are stated in the World Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith:

I believe…

> **In the Holy Scriptures as originally given by God, divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy; and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct... One God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... Our Lord Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, His virgin birth, His sinless human life, His divine miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension, His mediatorial work, and His Personal return in power and glory... The Salvation of lost and sinful man through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, apart from works, and regeneration by the Holy Spirit... The Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the believer is enabled to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ... The Unity of the Spirit of all true believers, the Church, the Body of Christ... The Resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.**

My Story

I was born in 1956 and raised on a ranch in Western Montana. While working alongside my parents in the rigors of raising cattle on a family farm, I learned from early childhood the value of hard, honest work. During my grade school and high school years, along with the daily chores of the ranch, I was heavily involved in sports and student government, where I learned the value of working as a team.

I placed my personal trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior at the age of nine. I first heard the gospel at a Vacation Bible School sponsored in our community through the Rocky Mountain Bible Mission. Later that evening in bed, feeling the strong conviction of the Spirit that my sins had separated me from God, I prayed and received Christ into my life. Along with a sense of peace and relief, I immediately felt a heavy burden for my dad, who was not yet a believer. I prayed that somehow, someday, God would save him too. That prayer was answered nearly 10 years later when my dad gave his heart to Christ as well. God is so good!

Following my conversion to Christ, I was not established well in the faith, so I grew up as a teen unconnected to the church. Then, in my last year of high school, the Lord got a hold of my heart again and the transformation was dramatic (the change in me was instrumental in my dad coming to Christ). At that point, I decided to attend a year of Bible college. So, following graduation from high school in 1974, I attended Big Sky Bible College in Lewistown, Montana. My intension was to spend a year in biblical studies before pursuing a career as an architect. However, during that year, I fell in love with the Word of God and chose to remain at Big Sky for four years. I graduated in 1978 with a Bachelor's degree in Pastoral Ministry.

During the summer after my sophomore year at Big Sky, I served as a summer missionary in Europe. It was at this time that I began to sense God's call to the pastorate. While street preaching in Munich, Germany, I felt, for the first time, the power of the Holy Spirit fill me as I proclaimed the gospel to the German people. Then, during my junior year, when I began to focus my studies on a pastoral major and the following summer when I served as a pastoral intern, the call to the pastorate became clear and compelling. So, after graduating from Big Sky in 1978, Mary and I were married and two weeks later began full-time ministry.

Additional Findings from the Interview Process

Source of Dr. Cross's name for consideration: Of the various network sources where candidates names came from, Ben Cross' name was provided to the Pastoral Search Committee by three separate networks

- John Vawter's early list of possible candidates
- Dave Cetti of CBNW
- Western Seminary

Interviews and References

- We had multiple interviews with Dr. Cross, including follow up interviews with 11 others about him.

Two notable references were:

- Gerry Breshears (Western Seminary) stated that Dr. Cross is one of the best preachers in the Pacific Northwest and hopes he will be invited to FBC Eugene as the next Senior Pastor.
- Haddon Robinson (Gordon – Conwell) stated that Dr. Cross was one of the best preachers to have gone through Gordon-Conwell's preaching program. He was seen as the leader among the others in the program. His thesis was on "Preaching to induce Life-Change"

Biblical Qualifications

- All the references indicate Ben is a man who reflects the highest Christian character in his life as someone who lives what he teaches. In addition, Ben's family reflect the same high level of commitment to God's standards. His adult children are still heavily involved in ministry at Grace Community Church, even after Ben left.

Impact of the Holy Spirit

- Dr. Cross believes the Christian life is only possible through he empowerment of the Holy Spirit as believers surrender to His control through prayer.
- He expects to see the Spirit work in his life, in his teaching, and in the lives of the congregation.
- He is committed to teach who God is, what He expects from us, and how the Holy Spirit wants to transform, teach, lead, illuminate, and ignite our souls.

Doctrine

- Dr. Cross is a Conservative Baptist who uses his understanding of scripture to prepare the church to combat the cultural challenges they will encounter.

Preaching

- Dr. Cross's preaching is expositionally focused. He is passionate about teaching the full truth of God and wants people to grow in their maturity and commitment to the Lord.
- He is a humble man of God who has an extraordinary preaching ability.
- He is a visionary, who is able to see opportunities to expand the influence of Christ into the community.
- We feel his track record of high performance meets or exceeds the standards outlined in our Senior Pastor Qualifications and Profile.

Other **Material**

Downloadable sermons available on Grace Community Church's website:
http://media.gccauburn.net/index.php?mediaPage=4
Under the "Resources" menu select "Sermons"
Search back to dates prior to October 2007