



PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE PRESENTS



SHONN KEELS

PRESENTING PASTOR SHONN KEELS



To Emmanuel Enid,

After hearing from the Lord a few years ago, Bonnie and I have been praying for God to open the door for me to lead a God-honoring, Christ-exalting, Spirit-led, mission-minded church. Over the past few years, we have prayed about a few opportunities but did not feel led to any of these great churches. However, when we learned of Emmanuel's need for a lead pastor, we started praying and eventually sensed the Lord's pull in this direction. After much prayer, investigation, comments from several seasoned saints at Putnam City Baptist Church, meetings with friends who are

familiar with Emmanuel, and time spent with the Pastor Search Committee, we are convinced God is calling us to Emmanuel and calling me to lead. We are excited to become a part of the family and look forward to fruitful years serving and growing together as the Lord allows.

Life Purpose

My purpose in life is to honor the Lord through serving my family, the local church, my city, and the world as God opens doors. My spiritual gifts of preaching, teaching, leadership, and evangelism are designed to help me do these with excellence. My vision is to "make disciples" as the Lord commands.

Dr. Shonn Keels



*Bryce, Brelin, Shonn with granddaughter Indie,
Bonnie and Baylee*

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

I grew up in a very religious home, but I did not grow up with a relationship with Christ. My mother and father took me to church on a weekly basis. In addition to Sunday mornings, we often attended on Wednesday nights, and I went with friends on Sunday nights too. I learned all the songs, memorized many verses, knew when to stand up, sit down, kneel, and I knew most of the other religious rituals that were a part of my church experience growing up. However, participating in all the religious activity still left me feeling empty inside.

The emptiness led me down a path of searching how to fill the void in my life. Playing sports was my solace. I won many awards along the way. However, the trophies would eventually end up collecting dust, and the emptiness in my life would only grow stronger. After high school, I enlisted in the Navy believing a change in my surroundings might make a difference. I soon realized that a change in geography did not help fill the void. The emptiness in my life continued to grow, until I finally understood the Gospel.

On October 29, 1992, on a US Naval warship in the middle of the Pacific Ocean returning from the Persian Gulf, for the first time in my life I discovered it was not about religion, it was about a relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ. It finally made sense to me, and I fully surrendered my life to Jesus Christ. After receiving Christ, I entered civilian life and then married my wife on May 22, 1993. God has blessed my wife and me with two incredible daughters, a son-in-law, and a granddaughter. I have devoted my life to serving the Lord in pastoral ministry since May of 1994. God has allowed me to preach in thousands of churches on six of the seven continents, in almost forty countries, and in most of the states in the U.S. I have learned a lot about the local church from experience, the classroom, books, and my extensive travels. God has been better to me than I deserve. However, the greatest thing God has done in my life is that He has given me the assurance that when I die, I will be with Him in a real place called Heaven for all of eternity because of my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

This I believe – Pastor Shonn Keels

About God – There is only One true God (Dt. 6:4). God is a spirit; yet He is a personal being. He is the Creator of all things. He is omnipotent, omnipresent, and immutable. There is none like Him. He is the sovereign Ruler over all of creation. God is the Preserver of mankind and the Redeemer of all who will come to Him by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He is holy and righteous. He is the triune God who reveals Himself as three distinct Persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit. In Him, there is no division.

About the Father – The Father is God. He is the first Person of the Godhead – Trinity (Mt. 28:19). He rules over His creation with perfect providential care. His wisdom and love have no limits. He is the Author, Sustainer, and Completer of salvation, and He desires that all come to repentance (2 Pet. 3:9).

About Jesus – The Son is God. He is the second Person of the Godhead – Trinity (Mt. 28:19). He is eternal and one with the Father and the Holy Spirit (Jn. 1:1-3). He is co-Creator (Col. 1:15-17). However, He did not allow His equality with God to keep Him from His primary mission of saving mankind from sin (Ph. 3:5-11). Jesus, who is the Son of God, in His incarnation, was conceived by God the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin named Mary (Lk. 1:26-38). Jesus completely and perfectly lived the will of God without sin and became sin on behalf of man (Heb. 4:15; 2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus died on the cross for sin, was buried, and was raised from the dead (1 Cor. 15:2-6). He ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God as the only Mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5). He will return to earth to judge all people and to complete the plan of redemption (Mt. 24; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; Rev. 20:11-15).

About the Holy Spirit – The Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:1-5). He is the third Person of the Godhead – Trinity (Mt. 28:19). He is eternal and one with the Father and the Son. He exalts Jesus as Christ. He enables men to understand truth (Jn. 14:26), and He inspired men to write God's Word (2 Pet. 1:20-21). He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (Jn. 16:9-11). He draws men to Christ for salvation. He empowers the believer to live a holy life (Gal. 5:16-26). He is the Comforter and the Giver of all spiritual gifts (Jn. 14:16; 1 Cor. 12:1-11). He is the abiding presence of Jesus and dwells within the believer guaranteeing salvation (Eph. 1:13-15). He is the power inside the life and witness of every believer (Acts 1:8).

About Scriptures – The Scriptures are God's infallible and inerrant Word written by divinely inspired men. God is the author and redemption is its end. His Word is complete, without error in its message, and chock-full of divine wisdom and instruction for man. The Scriptures are the final authority on all matters relating to faith and life. The Gospel is its preeminent message.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

About Human Beings – Humans are divinely created in the image of God. God created humans to be male and female. Man was created perfectly yet by his free will man sinned and through his rebellion sin entered the world. Adam's sin has been passed to all and all are born sinners (Rom. 3:23). Man in his sinful state is destined to a real place called hell unless he responds positively to the grace of God that is extended to all through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

About Salvation – Salvation is deliverance from the power and punishment of sin (Rom. 6:23). Salvation is possible for all who believe in Jesus (Rom. 10:9-10). God is the Author and Completer of salvation (Jn. 3:16-17). In short, God loves man, man sinned, God gives Jesus, man must repent (turn from) his sin and believe in the Lord Jesus to receive salvation.

About Eternal Security – Eternal life is eternal which means it does not end. Those who believe in Jesus and receive eternal life are eternally secure (Rom. 8:38-39, Eph. 1:13).

About Eternity – Eternity had no beginning, and it has no end. Sometime in the future God, according to His timetable, will bring time as we understand it to an end. Jesus will return to the earth personally and visibly according to the promise of God in the Scriptures to judge both the righteous and the unrighteous. The righteous will be saved, and the unrighteous will perish.

About Baptism by Immersion – Baptism represents the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism follows salvation. The word baptism means to immerse and the testimony in Scripture points to immersion (Acts 8:30-38; Rom. 6:3-4; Mt. 28:18-20).

About the Lord's Supper – The Lord's Supper is a lasting ordinance given to the church by the Lord Jesus. The bread and the cup represent the broken body and blood of Jesus. The Church is to celebrate communion regularly proclaiming His death until He returns (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

About Evangelism – Evangelism is the privilege and responsibility of all believers (Mt. 28:18-20). All believers are responsible for evangelizing their neighbors and the nations (Acts 1:8).

About the Church – The Church is the universal body of Christ made up of baptized believers. The Church is made up of local churches all over the world. The local church is an autonomous congregation of baptized believers. The local church is governed by God's laws under the Lordship of Christ through the leadership of the local congregation.

About Christian Unity – The two greatest laws in all of Scripture are to love God and to love one another (Mt. 22:34-40). Christian unity is a high priority (Mt. 5:23-24). We are better together!

PASTOR REFERENCES

To the Emmanuel Baptist Pastor Search Committee and my home church!

It is without reservation that I highly recommend Dr. Shonn Keels as a candidate for your open pastor position. I have had the privilege of serving with Shonn for over 7 years now. I have the unusual perspective of knowing both Emmanuel and Shonn. I was saved through the ministries of Emmanuel when I was a junior at Enid High School. My high school sweetheart and now wife was a long-time member of Emmanuel. I have always had a huge heart for Emmanuel and have been so grateful for Wade's ministry of reaching my hometown with the gospel. Know that Cami and I have been praying for your committee during this entire process.

Shonn is one of the most committed and disciplined spiritual leaders I have ever served with. His passion for the Lord and the lost is unequalled. He is diligent in service and devoted to a fresh walk with God. Shonn is a gifted teacher. He accurately handles the Word of God and tackles tough issues, doctrine, and clearly helps people connect to the truths of God's Word. He is theologically sound and conservative.

Shonn is also great at connecting with our community. He has spent countless hours training and serving as a chaplain in our Oklahoma City Police Department, Sheriff's office, and Disaster Relief. He equips and leads many of our mission trips locally and as far as India.

Shonn also has a great family. He and Bonnie have a very healthy, God honoring marriage and have raised two daughters that serve the Lord in ministry as well. I truly believe that Shonn's spiritual leadership, strong convictions and giftedness is a perfect fit "for such a time as this" in the life of Emmanuel. I also know first-hand that Shonn has a great passion for Emmanuel and Enid. He has had numerous offers but hasn't felt a calling to any of them until now with Emmanuel Baptist Church. Know that we will continue to be praying for you as the Lord leads you to His perfect will.

For His glory,

Bill Hulse

Senior Pastor, Putnam City Baptist Church

PASTOR REFERENCES

"Shonn is truly an exemplary leader, pastor, husband, father and coach. He has a gift for preaching and evangelizing and is always ready to share the good news of Jesus. If you have ever interacted with Shonn, you know that his love, care and leadership for his family can be seen and felt. He is the same authentic person at home as he is in public.

I highly recommend Shonn, because he is strong in character and integrity. Shonn is a man of strength and valor, completely committed to Christ and to expanding the Kingdom of God."

Clay NeSmith, Senior Pastor, Barefoot Church

"I am confident in Shonn's ability to stay the course to lead the local church. I have always known Shonn to pursue excellence, something he helped instill in me personally. He is consistently pursuing Christ and studying God's Word. He preaches in a manner that is engaging and easy to listen to. Adjectives such as kind, passionate and reverent easily describe his personality.

I am wholeheartedly confident Shonn displays the qualities and the calling required to step into this role as Sr. Pastor. I believe he and his family to be an asset to any church lucky enough to snag him! I am truly proud to call him friend, mentor and dedicated follower of Jesus."

Cesar Arocha, Senior Pastor, Dallas Bay Church

"In my opinion, three things stood out about Dr. Keels throughout the interview process. First, his professionalism and respect awarded to each committee member and the interview process. Second, his approachability within his current congregation and at meetings we requested. And third, his willingness to roll-up his sleeves and do whatever is needed. Over the last few months of the interview process, Dr. Keel's vast knowledge of the Bible and his true love for sharing the gospel were evident. It is a great joy to recommend Dr. Keels as the next Lead Pastor at Emmanuel Enid."

Carol Williams, Chairperson, Pastor Search Committee

PERSONAL INFORMATION



EDUCATION

Doctor of Ministry, Luther Rice Seminary, 2020

Master of Divinity, Luther Rice Seminary, 2017

Master of Arts in Ministry, Luther Rice Seminary, 2003

Ordained, Blackshear Place Baptist Church, 1997

Bachelor of Arts, Interdisciplinary Studies, Univ of South Carolina, 1995

WORK EXPERIENCE

Associate Pastor, Putnam City Baptist Church Aug 2014 – present

- Served on Executive and Strategic Planning Team for PCBC

- Led Education Team of 7 staff, Communication Team of 5 staff and Adult Ed volunteers of 72

Lead Evangelist, Team Impact Oct 2008 – Aug 2014

- Led Evangelism Teams at crusades 42 weeks in a year

- Averaged over 200 decisions at each crusade, and 10,000 decisions per year

Senior Pastor, Carolina Forest Community Church March 2004 – Oct 2008

- Grew church from 500 to 1200

- Average of 100 baptisms annually

Associate Pastor, Carolina Forest Community Church March 2003 – March 2004

- Responsible for more than 40 small groups

- Oversight of Community Center serving more than 500 families

Student Pastor, Carolina Forest Community Church March 1999 – March 2003

- Started student ministry from ground zero due to church plant

- Average 80 salvations and baptisms annually

Student Pastor, Blackshear Place Baptist Church June 1997 – March 1999

- Average attendance 2200

- Led staff of 2 and volunteer base of 60 within youth program

Student Pastor, Harmony Church May 1993 – June 1997

- Average attendance 400

- Recruited and led volunteers of 16 people

PERSONAL INFORMATION

PUBLICATIONS

Maximize Your Leadership, iUniverse Publishing 2009

Hold the Rope, Morgan James Publishing 2013

The Great Debate: Calvinism or Choice, Kindle Direct Publishing 2021

Go Fish, Morgan James Publishing, releases January 2022

Finding Hope in Hardship, Morgan James Publishing, releases July 2022

SOCIAL MEDIA

YouTube – <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzHfaD8BbQEZCyJR-3vCJ6Q>

Blog – www.drshonnkeels.com

SHONN'S FAMILY



Bonnie and I met and married in 1993 in Sumter, South Carolina, where I was called to ministry. God allowed us to serve in churches in Georgia, South Carolina, and then Oklahoma. During these days I also spent many years traveling the globe with an evangelism ministry based out of Dallas, Texas.

We have two daughters, Brelin and Baylee, who have always done ministry with us. Brelin is now married to Bryce Schubert who serves on staff at Crossings Community Church in Oklahoma City. They have a daughter, Indie, who is our first grandchild. Baylee lives at home, serves on staff with me at Putman City Baptist Church during the week, and serves in the worship ministry at Crossings on weekends.

We are a very close family. We love to eat, laugh, play games, watch movies, and serve the Lord together.

MEET PASTOR SHONN KEELS

Below are the opportunities that will be available to meet and hear from Shonn and Bonnie Keels. Please note which events are for ALL and which events are for specific groups.

Friday, November 12th, 3:00–5:00 PM

Meeting with **Emmanuel Enid staff** in the HUB

Friday, November 12th, 6:00 PM

Offsite dinner with **Pastors, Directors, and spouses**

Saturday, November 13th, 3:00–5:00 PM

Church wide reception in the HUB

Saturday, November 13th, 6:00 PM

Offsite dinner with **Trustees**

Sunday, November 14th, 7:30, 9:30, and 11:30 AM

Message from Dr. Keels in all three services

Sunday, November 14th, 7:30 AM – 1:00 PM and 5:00–6:00 PM

Special called Business Meeting for the purpose of church members casting a vote for Lead Pastor in the gymnasium

Sunday, November 14th, 6:00 PM

Worship service with vote reveal in the sanctuary

BY LAWS **VOTING INFORMATION**

Voting Information from By-Laws

Article 1, Section 2

Membership at Emmanuel Enid includes the right to vote at all elections and on all questions submitted to the church in any regularly scheduled or called business meeting. Only church members are eligible to be elected to church offices, committees, or boards.

Voting Information from By - Laws

Article 3, Section 2, Paragraph 4

The Pastor Search Committee will present to Emmanuel Enid the individual they recommend to fill the Lead Pastor position at Emmanuel Enid. The Lead Pastor candidate will preach in view of a call at the Sunday morning worship services, and church approval of the Pastor Search Committee's recommendation will be by secret ballot. The candidate will be considered called by Emmanuel Enid as Lead Pastor upon receiving an 80% affirmative vote of members present at a special called business meeting.

Vote to Call Lead Pastor

The special called business meeting will be open from 7:30am until 1pm and again 5pm-6pm on Sunday, November 14th, for the purpose of obtaining a ballot and voting for the call of Lead Pastor; no other church business will be discussed or voted on during this time. All ballots must be returned by 6pm on November 14th. For those church members that are homebound or not comfortable in attending a large gathering, you may contact the church office (580-242-0602) to have the Deacon Service Committee deliver a brochure and/or ballot. All ballots in this case must be picked up and returned to the church prior to the close of voting.



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