



Dear Stuart Heights Family,

Today marks a significant moment in the life of our church. We are grateful to announce that our congregation has voted to approve two important decisions.

Senior Pastor Gary Jared's Retirement After 35 years of faithful service as our Senior Pastor, Gary Jared will retire and transition to Pastor Emeritus effective January 1, 2026. This honorary role recognizes Gary's distinguished ministry while allowing him to continue as a valued member of our church family.

Brian K. Smith's Installation as Senior Pastor We celebrate that Brian K. Smith will become our new Senior Pastor effective January 1, 2026. Brian has served faithfully as our Senior Associate Pastor and has been prepared by God for this moment of leadership.

What This Means

- Gary will continue as Senior Pastor through December 31, 2025
- Gary will preach his final sermon as Senior Pastor on December 28, 2025
- Brian will assume the Senior Pastor role on January 1, 2026
- Gary will remain an active member of Stuart Heights with the honorary title Pastor Emeritus

Why This Approach: This planned transition allows us to honor Gary's legacy while ensuring strong, continuous leadership. We are blessed to have both men's servant hearts and commitment to Christ's mission through Stuart Heights Baptist Church.

Next Steps

- Continue to pray for Gary, Brian, and their families
- Support both men during this transition period
- Celebrate God's faithfulness to our church

We invite you to read more about this transition on our website, including answers to frequently asked questions.

Thank you for your partnership in the gospel and your commitment to Stuart Heights Baptist Church.

In Christ's Service,
Stuart Heights Baptist Church Pastoral Staff