

Stone Hill Church of Princeton Case Study



Problem

- Stone Hill Church of Princeton was facing a succession challenge. Their beloved pastor of 35 years was stepping down and the board could not coalesce around any of the candidates supplied by their search firm.
- Just as the world was entering the COVID-19 pandemic, the Elders asked Tracy Troxel, the pastor of care, to serve as the interim. Tracy wasn't sure what God was calling him to do but he knew he didn't want to navigate this process alone.

Solution

- The church contracted with the VOCA Center to provide a senior level, executive coach for Tracy. The coaching provided Tracy with the space he needed to safely process all the possibilities and find God's path amidst a very challenging season for him, the church, and the country.

Outcomes/Results

- After a few months as interim, Tracy was asked to be the permanent senior pastor. He accepted, was voted in, and with the help of his VOCA coach, went about the process of building unity and momentum
- Today, Stone Hill is thriving spiritually seeing new people come to faith, seeing attendance that is above prepandemic levels, with the financial resources to provide for the work.

“I needed a sanity check as I was transitioning into a position that was very challenging. My coach helped me navigate not only some key directions but also helped me think more clearly about the specific challenges that needed to be addressed. Instead of moving from one thing to the next, I was able to slow down and start thinking more strategically about the priorities that were most needed. The assessments helped to clarify why I gravitated to certain parts of leadership and hated others. This helped me to know who to lean on in our team, what and to whom to delegate certain tasks, and how to be more effective.”

-Tracy Troxel