

Search for the General Minister and President Charge to the Search Committee

The discernment of call involving officers of the United Church of Christ is one of the most important responsibilities belonging to the United Church of Christ Board. As we seek the Holy Spirit's guidance in calling our next General Minister and President, the UCCB has empaneled a search committee consisting of respected leaders from many different communities throughout the Wider Church. Our charge to this search committee is to conduct a thorough canvass of ecclesial leaders in the United Church of Christ and to recommend the candidate most trusted to serve in this office with excellence and legitimacy. According to our bylaws, the UCCB must nominate a candidate who holds or is eligible to receive Ordained Ministerial Standing or Ordained Ministerial Partner Standing in the United Church of Christ for election by General Synod.

The role of the search committee is to identify the candidate best suited to carry out the duties of office reflected in the GMP job description. We are asking the committee to conduct a comprehensive search of candidates in every setting of the church as well as non-ecclesial institutions where highly qualified candidates may be found. As an aid to the search committee, the UCCB has retained the assistance of Isaacson Miller. The IM team has been selected for their ability to extend the search committee's reach throughout the church and related institutions; provide guidance and accountability as we enact our commitments to diversity, equity, and inclusion; keep pace with our timeline set by General Synod; and offer trusted counsel. Isaacson Miller will provide services including candidate identification, meeting coordination and facilitation, and candidate vetting. The discernment of spiritual gifts for serving in this office ultimately falls to the search committee alone.

The UCCB expects the search committee to conduct its work within an appropriate covenant of keeping confidences and to strive for transparency in its process. We believe that the church will trust the outcome of the search when we give prayerful attention to process, confidences, and communication along the way. Our search process arises from the belief that all of God's children are called to ministry, and that all who belong to the church of Jesus Christ are blessed with gifts of the Holy Spirit. Therefore the search committee is also challenged to remember that God may be calling forth leadership from any of the church's many communities. Our process reflects our commitment to empowering women and nonbinary people in ministry, racial equity in leadership, and building hospitable spaces for the differences in identity and lived experience that abound in our common life.

The search committee is asked to nominate a single candidate in time for validation by the board at the UCCB's annual spring meeting in March 2023.