

LITANY FOR COMMISSIONING A PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Invitation *(President/Moderator/Chair of the governing board invites members of the Search Committee to come forward; each one is introduced.)*

The Word **1 Corinthians 12:4-12**

Response

President: There are different gifts.

People: **BUT IT IS THE SAME SPIRIT WHO GIVES THEM.**

President: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit.

People: **TO BE USED FOR THE COMMON GOOD.**

Address to the Committee Members:

Siblings in Christ, you have committed yourselves to a significant leadership task on behalf of the entire congregation. In recognition of the importance of your work, we pause to express our gratitude and to remind ourselves that you do not undertake this task alone; you will be guided by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the prayerful support of the members of this church, and the assistance of the United Church of Christ through the Association and Conference.

Covenant

Committee Members:

We, who are serving on the Search Committee for _____ (name of Church), promise to perform faithfully the vital task of searching for a new pastor. We pledge, with God's guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do, say, and decide.

We will endeavor:

- to establish a harmonious working relationship within our committee;
- to maintain consistent attendance at our Search Committee meetings;
- to be open and patient listeners to each other and to the congregation;
- to listen carefully to your hopes and dreams as we consult with you, the members, in the development of a description of our church community;
- and the style of pastoral leadership we seek;
- to maintain strict confidentiality in all we read, say, and hear—protecting both the privacy of each other and of potential candidates;

- to review all profiles with open minds and hearts, treating all candidates fairly and justly;
- to seek decisions not made by majority rule, but by the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church.

People:

WE PLEDGE, AS A GATHERED COMMUNITY OF FAITH, TO BE PATIENT WITH YOU AND TO RESPECT YOUR NEED TO BE CONFIDENTIAL IN YOUR TASK. WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE WORK OF OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE IS A DIFFICULT ASSIGNMENT AND WILL TAKE MUCH EFFORT. WE PRAY FOR YOU AND OFFER OUR SUPPORT AND WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGHOUT THIS TIME.

THESE THINGS WE PROMISE IN THE HOPE AND BELIEF THAT YOU WILL BE FAITHFUL TO THE GUIDANCE OF THE SPIRIT AS YOU SEEK A NEW MINISTER TO MINISTER WITH US.

Closing Prayer:

(An appropriate closing prayer may be offered by the Interim Minister or the President/Moderator/Governing Body Chair.)

*(Adapted, Rhode Island and Connecticut Conferences)
(Revised 3/17/2022)*