



UPDATE #22

Seeking God's Guidance

The Call Committee began meeting in mid-February to lay the foundation for the search and call process. In these seven months, we are leaning into our faith and taking the time we need to discern and listen for God speaking.

We consider these reflection questions as we review scores of ministerial profiles (resumes), listen to dozens of sermons, and read Statements of Faith. Our collective spiritual journey has evolved over the months together, sharing in prayer, meditation, and deep discussion. These questions have been meaningful for us, and you may find some meaning as well.

- How might we create more room for the Holy Spirit to speak?
- What is possible?
- How might we strengthen every option before we commit to a direction?
- How are we willing to be flexible and /or surprised?
- What is the most faithful action we could undertake right now?
- In what ways do we need to exercise courage? Humility?
- What is God up to?

With each potential candidate, we have sought God's guidance. We continue to do our due diligence including reference checks, social media review, and internet searches. As this process moves forward, the steps are: a call is extended to one candidate and if the candidate we seek chooses to accept the Call, the Call Covenant (hiring contract) will be completed, all pending approval from the congregation.

The committee will communicate with the congregation to introduce the chosen candidate. We will share what we have learned and why we chose this candidate. The date for the "candidating weekend" will be established. The "candidating weekend" is a standard practice in mainline churches. This is the time we all have an opportunity to meet the candidate (and family) in an informal setting on Saturday and follow up with the Sunday worship service where the candidate will preach. A congregational meeting will follow and offers members an opportunity to ask questions of the Search Committee, and to vote on the Call to our new pastor, according to the By-Laws of our church.

We plan to continue with the original model of transition which is to overlap retiring ministers with our new minister. This may look different than our original discussions due to circumstances. We will adapt and remain flexible.

Thank you for your continuing encouragement and well wishes for the work we are doing on behalf of this congregation. Please continue to follow the E-News as there is important progress being made. Our timeline continues to follow our original goal of welcoming a settled pastor by the end of the year.

Robin Long