

Commissioning of the Search Team

This may be led by the Chair or Moderator of the church or of the Elders. If a representative can be present from the Christian Church of Greater Kansas City, this would be preferable. It is not necessary that this be distributed to all participants if the leader has a copy and directs those who are responding. For the laying of the hands at the end, notify the elders ahead of time if you desire them to come forward.

Leader: As we begin the search for our new pastor, we are all starting a time of discernment and listening for God. We have chosen a team of people who represent different groups of the whole congregation. They are people who have demonstrated their faith, their love for the ministry of this church and their willingness to serve. They will be listening to God, and to us, and preparing a profile or resume of our congregation. The profile will be shared with possible candidates. They will study the profiles or resumes of the ministers who want to be considered. The ministers they choose will be interviewed and studied. When one candidate is selected by the Search Team, that person will be presented to our Board. If our Board agrees with the call being made to this person, then the whole congregation will have an opportunity to meet him or her and a vote will be taken on whether or not to call the person as our pastor.

I want to introduce to you the people who make up our Search Team: (Have members stand up front, if possible, and introduce each one.)

As we begin this search I want to ask the Search Team, Will you promise to seek to hear God's guidance as you search for our new minister?

Search Team: We will.

Leader: Will you use your gifts of faith, wisdom and knowledge to work together?

Search Team: We will.

Leader: Will you speak the truth as you know it to each other in love and work together until you have named one person to recommend to us as our next pastor?

Search Team: We will.

Leader: (Turning to the congregation) And will we, the congregation, promise to pray for the Search Team, to encourage them in their work and to respond to them when they request our help?

Congregation: We will.

Leader: It is a part of our Biblical history, that when people begin a new and sacred responsibility, the leaders of the church lay hands (anointing is another option) on them and pray for God's strength and wisdom to guide them. Will the elders of the church come forward? (You may also have the congregation extend their hands.)

Prayer by Leader: God, we thank you for each person on this Search Team. We ask that you bring each one of them the strength to meet the challenges along the way, the wisdom to make good decisions and the joy of new discoveries along the way. Bless each of them and bring us together as a congregation as we seek to be more faithful to You. Amen.