



Southern New England Conference

United Church of Christ

Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

The Search and Call --- Journey

Overview of the process



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

- ENDING MINISTRY WELL

- PREPARING FOR THE SEARCH

- DISCERNING THROUGH THE SEARCH

- COMPLETING THE SEARCH

- BEGINNING MINISTRY WELL

You are NOT alone!

- CONFERENCE

Orientations, processes & support

- MESA

Ministerial Excellence, Support, and Authorization at national level

- PEERS

Remember you are a part of an Association of Churches. Committee on Ministry

- YOUR CONGREGATION

There's an abundance of talent, wisdom, and gifts within.

- DIVINE HELP

Lean on the power of God and the Holy Spirit to guide you.

Ending Ministry Well!

"I planted, Apollos watered, but **God gave the growth.**"
~1 Corinthians 3:5-6

- **COMMUNICATE**

Who?

- ✓ From pastor & leadership to congregation
- ✓ With Conference
- ✓ With association
- ✓ Among leadership

What?

- ✓ Process & plan
- ✓ Faith & hope
- ✓ Confidentiality

- **PLAN A GOODBYE**

- ✓ Time to celebrate and honor shared ministry
- ✓ Pass along essential information.
- ✓ Exit interview (church and/or COM)
- ✓ Set healthy boundaries
- ✓ Service of Release

- **CHOOSE A
TRANSITIONAL
MINISTER**

- ✓ Who will make this decision?
- ✓ What type(s) will you need?
- ✓ Fill out conference documents.

Preparing for the Search



• FORM COMMITTEE

- ✓ Two styles
- ✓ Represent the entire congregation
- ✓ Follow five core commitments (see next slide)
- ✓ Committee roles:
 - Facilitation (chair)
 - Communication (secretary/clerk)
 - Spirituality (chaplain)

• GATHER INFORMATION

- ✓ Listen to the congregation
- ✓ Listen beyond the congregation
- ✓ Discern/synthesize what you have heard.
- ✓ Discuss compensation

• WRITE PROFILE

- ✓ Who are we?
- ✓ Who is our neighbor?
- ✓ Who is God calling us to become?

Discerning through the Search

With holy curiosity, confidentiality, and an open and outward outlook.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RECEIVE PROFILES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Process<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication & organization• Prayerful openness✓ Content<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key gifts & graces• Quantitative and qualitative
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• INTERVIEW CANDIDATES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Mock Interview✓ First, second, third....rounds✓ Check references✓ Digital research
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DISCERN TOWARD & WITH FINAL CANDIDATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ “Neutral Pulpit” purposes<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Seeing a candidate lead worship & engage with congregants✓ Meet candidate/show them around town✓ Committee consensus✓ Compensation & timeline✓ Call Agreement

Completing the Search

"Give your servants an
understanding mind to
follow your will....
(I Kings 3:9a)

- **INTRODUCE
CANDIDATE TO
CONGREGATION**

- ✓ Remain sensitive to confidentiality and timeline
- ✓ Share process and energy to build connection

- **HOLD
CANDIDATING
WEEKEND**

- ✓ Meet the candidate
 - Formal & informal
 - Staff, key leaders
- ✓ Candidate leads worship & preaches
- ✓ Congregational meeting & vote

- **PLAN FOR END OF
INTERIM**

- ✓ Wrap up projects/work
- ✓ Say good-bye
- ✓ Prepare for next pastor

Beginning ministry well!

“Ask, and it will be given to you;
seek, and you will find;
knock, and it will be opened to you.”
Matthew 7:7

- **WELCOME NEW PASTOR**

- ✓ Extravagant welcome
- ✓ Tend to practical things & relationships

- **ORIENT NEW PASTOR**

- ✓ People
- ✓ Processes
- ✓ Priorities

- **PARTNER WITH NEW PASTOR**

- ✓ Mutual ministry
- ✓ Ongoing support
- ✓ Continued discernment