

DEDICATION OF THE PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

LEADER: Dear friends, you have heard the calling of God and the need of this congregation. You have prayerfully considered the task to which you have been called. Your ministry will be to search for and recommend a candidate as this congregation's new pastor. This ministry will take you beyond your present boundaries, stretching your minds and opening your hearts to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Will you listen carefully to the members and friends of this congregation as they reflect on the past, present and future ministry of this church, so that a loving, but honest, description of our church will be shared with prospective pastoral candidates?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: I will, with the grace and help of God.

LEADER: Will you care for each of the candidates, communicating in a timely manner, respecting the faith journey of each one, and listening carefully for the gifts and skills that each might offer? And will you maintain strict confidentiality in all you read, say or hear?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: I will, with the grace and help of God.

LEADER: Will you be patient with each other and with the passing of time? Will you covenant to pray with and for one another, and for our church? Will you seek decisions by the coming together of your minds, hearts, and souls in God-given consensus?

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: I will, with the grace and help of God.

LEADER: Will the congregation please stand. Do you promise to support these servants of God in their ministry, allowing them the time and privacy they need to do their work? Will you covenant to pray for them and for our church in this interim time?

CONGREGATION: We will, with the grace and help of God.

LEADER: O God, bless now these persons who have been set apart to do this special work of seeking for the pastor whose strengths will challenge our church's weaknesses and whose weaknesses will be balanced by our church's strengths; and whose leadership will equip our church for the work of ministry. Grant them discernment in the seeking of your will for this church. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen