

A Just Peace, Open and Affirming Conference

Building a Faithful Team

You will be spending many hours together as you prepare your church profile. You will spend additional hours reading ministerial profiles, preparing for and conducting interviews.

It is beneficial to ground your work by beginning each of your meetings with a half hour of prayer and conversation that will help your committee develop the trust and relationship with one another that will enable you to reach a God-given consensus.

Begin with:

- A time of silence –
 - Come apart from the tasks and worries of the day in order to focus on this particular task.

Continue with:

- A time of sharing –
 - With one member a meeting sharing their particular faith journey – and how they became a part of your church.
- And when you've finished faith journeys –
 - Keep on sharing with one another (no more than one question a meeting) (or any other focused conversation topic):
 - What three or four people had the most impact on your faith development? ...as a child...as an adult?
 - What three or four moments in worship have had the most meaning for you...as a child...as an adult?
 - When has God's presence been most real to you?
 - What rituals hold importance for you?
 - If this church were to suddenly disappear - What would you miss most? Would this community notice?
 - When you enter this church do you expect to be treated differently than out in the world? Why? Why not?
 - What kind of person do we want to send out into the world?
 - What kind of worship, education, and fellowship and mission opportunities do we need to help nurture this person?
 - What kind of lay leaders do we need to enable those opportunities?
 - What kind of pastor do we need to equip those kinds of lay leadership?

End with:

- A time of prayer –
 - For your church, its members and its needs;
 - For your committee members, your needs and your work.

Between beginning your work and concluding your work, you are invited to stop and mark appropriate points along the journey using "Biblical Resources for Search Committees".