**A Service of Dedication For the Pastoral Search Committee**

**Pastor:** You have, as individuals and as a group, accepted the privilege and responsibility of being a member of our Pastoral Search Committee. Your task will be to recommend to this congregation a fitting candidate or candidates for this pulpit. You also have a task that needs to be expressed not in the future tense, but in the present tense. Your task is to reason together, pray together, and grow together as you move toward making your recommendations. You will be in a much better place to undertake your future task if you do well in undertaking the present task. Will you pledge to each other, to this church and to the United Church of Christ to: Be patient with each other and with the passing of time so that you are open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all you do, say and decide?

**Response:** I will and we will.

**Pastor:** Will you listen carefully to the members and friends of the Church as they evaluate the past and present mission and ministry of this church so that the selection of future pastoral leadership is owned by all?

**Response:** I will and we will.

**Pastor:** Will you, while listening carefully to the hopes and dreams of this parish for its future, maintain strict confidentiality in all you read, say, and hear - protecting both the privacy of each other and of potential candidates?

**Response:** I will and we will.

**Pastor:** Will you be open to the working of the Holy Spirit, seeking the will of God, while being prepared for sacred surprises that may take you beyond past practice and current thinking as you work with each other, with the resources available to you, and with the people you meet along the way?

**Response:** I will and we will.

**Pastor:** Will you seek decisions not made by majority rule, but the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will - with all confidence, faith, and hope - build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church?

**Response:** I will and we will.

**Pastor:** Do you pledge, as far as in you lies, to be loyal to your church and its new pastoral leadership once your task of recommending a candidate is completed? Will you offer your gifts, your time and your support - thus continuing to be a vital part of the mission and ministry of this church?

**Response:** I will and we will.

**CONGREGATION** (standing): You have our thankfulness and our appreciation for your willingness to accept the privilege and the responsibility of recommending our future pastoral leadership. When we can support your work, let us know! When we need to be patient and let you be about your work, say so! God bless you in the months ahead. God bless us in our faith and faithfulness as we go about our several ministries in this "in-between-time". Amen and Amen!