

Guidelines for Selecting a Mission Study Committee

- 1) Don't rush this part of the process. If you do this right, it will save time as you prepare to search for a pastor.
- 2) Think of this process as building the foundation for future ministry. If you don't build it properly, if you use inferior materials or shoddy workmanship, it will not support your future plans.
- 3) Keep in mind the Apostle Paul's admonition: "According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder, I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ."
(I Corinthians 3:10-11)
- 4) Choose five people who are willing and able to meet weekly for a period of two to three months:
 - a) They should represent key groups/constituencies within your congregation, demonstrating age and gender diversity (someone with young children or teenagers; a relatively new member; one or two long-time members).
 - b) Two but not more than three session members.
 - c) Someone you might consider for the Pastor Nominating Committee.
 - d) At least one of the members should be active in or knowledgeable about community affairs.
 - e) Members not involved in any dissension around the former or current pastor.
 - f) These persons should be open-minded about the church's future, ready to do visioning work, and able to make quick decisions.