



Selection of the Call Committee

Most Congregational constitutions or bylaws will prescribe the appointment of a call committee including the number. For those congregations that do not have such documents, we recommend a call committee of between five and eight people. It is also recommended that the majority of the members on the call committee be persons currently not serving on the congregation council.

The composition of the call committee should intentionally reflect the makeup of the congregation, assuring that a diversity of gender, age, ethnic/racial identity is represented, as well as representation from various segments of congregational ministries, such as Worship, Youth, Education, Evangelism, and a mixture of new and long time members.

Because of the many demands placed on the chair person of the congregational council, it is recommended that the chair of the council not be the chair person of the call committee. In some congregations, the chair of the council serves as advisory member of the call committee with voice but not vote.

The congregational council needs to give salary, benefits and compensation guidelines to the call committee and authorize funding for its use in carrying out its responsibilities, such as cost of travel, meals, and lodging for invited candidates.

Prayer is an important activity for the call committee and the entire congregation throughout the whole process. Call committee members are encouraged to commit themselves to pray for one another and for the work of the Holy Spirit among them as they seek to discern God's will for their congregation.