

## GCCC Search Committee: Criteria for Serving

1. **Who May Serve?** (Article I and Preamble of GCCC By-Laws)
  - a. A Member in good standing: "from the time of their acceptance into membership...regularly participated in the worship and work of the Church through stewardship of their time, talents, and financial resources."
  - b. persons who have given public consent to our Covenant of Fellowship:
    - i. "We do...covenant with God and with one another to walk in God's ways, made known, or to be made known to us, whatsoever the cost, the Lord assisting us.
    - ii. We engage, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to promote the peace and welfare of this Church of Christ, and to sustain its worship and sacraments.
    - iii. We also engage to maintain personal devotion, to be just in our dealings, to refrain from everything that may reasonably bring reproach upon the Christian name, and to live in the world in joyful gratitude to God.
    - iv. We further engage to give ourselves and our substance to the ministry of healing among the nations, that all may know the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ."
2. **What characteristics should a Search and Call team member have?** (from UCC Search and Call, and best practices)
  - a. Spiritual and emotional maturity
    - i. The task of the Search Committee is spiritual as you gather to make a faith commitment to listen to God in the process of seeking a new pastor.
    - ii. "Just as the local church is not "our" church but rather God's, so too the Search Committee is really God's committee. A search for a new pastor is one of the most spiritual ministries in the church. The selection of Search Committee members is a task that is approached with prayer, wisdom, sensitivity, and awareness that God may be calling certain church members to consider serving in this particular capacity."
    - iii. demonstrate an active prayer life, knows what one believes, and respects what others believe stays connected to God, self, and others.
  - b. Ability to make a significant time commitment
    - i. Members make a time commitment to meet weekly
    - ii. follow through, contribute and learn
  - c. A Commitment to Confidentiality
    - i. Members make a commitment to keep appropriate confidences, maintains agreed covenant and ground rules
    - ii. Not more than one family member per Committee.
  - d. A Commitment to Openness.
    - i. Seeks to understand (other person / idea) before being understood: listens
    - ii. Bring no grudges in, creates no grudges
    - iii. No sense of privilege - we are all siblings in Christ, all gifted, all on the same level
    - iv. No personal or group agendas - open to the Spirit
  - e. A Commitment to Consensus
    - i. Members make a commitment to manage one's emotions, be self-aware, open to change, clear, and empathetic
    - ii. One and all "shape a collective articulation of Christ's leading"

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3. Final thoughts. Our By-Laws use these words to state the foundation for participating in the life of our congregation: "Through Christ the Members of this Church are bound to one another and to God in a Covenant Fellowship..." Participation on the Search Committee declares, as Jesus prayed: "not my will, but your will, O God, be done."