

ROLE OF THE SESSION IN SEARCH FOR PASTOR

The primary responsibility of the Session is to keep the ministry of the church going.

Involvement at key points in the calling process.

1. Session calls for congregational meeting for the election of a PNC. Session recommends a size for the committee to the congregation, although final authority for PNC size rests with the congregation. Nominations for the PNC are best made by the congregational nominating committee, nominating people who are representative of the congregation, knowledgeable of the church, community, and Presbyterian theology and government.
2. Plan for and participate in any congregational mission study.
 - a. What are we doing as a congregation? What is God calling us to do in the next phase of our ministry?
 - b. What are the needs of our community? What is God calling us to do to meet those needs?
 - c. What specifically will we do to strengthen our congregational and community ministry in the next year?
 - d. What must pastor and lay leaders do to help that to happen?
 - e. What kind of skills, experience, and person do we need in our pastor?If you need assistance in planning and completing this mission study, please call the Presbytery Resource Center or staff at the Presbytery office.
3. Support the PNC with prayer and funding (funds for search expense such as travel, phone). Determine the amount of money available for financial compensation for the new pastor.
4. When the PNC completes the CIF, the Session must carefully review and approve the document. The Clerk of Session attests to this approval by signing it online.
5. Be encouraging of the PNC but RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY! The PNC is a committee of the congregation and is responsible to the congregation, not to the Session. They will be encouraged to keep everyone informed of where they are in the process without giving details of possible candidates.
6. When the PNC is ready to nominate a pastor, the Session will call a congregational meeting.