

The Church During the Search Congregational Covenant

*To be used by the congregation at the conclusion of studying The Church During the Search.
It can be read responsively during the worship service or signed privately.*

As a member of our church during the search:

- I will strive to prepare myself to expect the unexpected during the pastor search process. I will make every effort to worship the Lord, even when I don't know who will be preaching on Sunday. I will strive to serve in the church when things don't go as planned or when I don't hear any updates. I will prepare myself for the ups and downs of the pastor search process, trusting that God is working out His plan for our church in His timing.
- I will strive to be better informed about the biblical roles of a pastor to feed, lead, protect, and comfort his flock during the pastor search process. I will seek to become well acquainted with the biblical qualifications for a pastor, and I will seek to take opportunities to encourage those entrusted with the responsibility to identify our next pastor. I look forward to supporting my next pastor as he faithfully strives to fulfill the biblical roles as my spiritual shepherd.
- I will strive to be humble during the pastor search process, working diligently to place the needs and interests of other church members above my own. I will strive to avoid allowing my desires to become demands, either of the Pastor Search Committee or of my next pastor and his family. I will seek to disarm any land mines before my next pastor arrives. I will honor the past, but I will also make every effort to look to the future and support the current and future ministry endeavors of my church.
- I will strive to be prayerful during the pastor search process. I will strive to pray that my church will make these six commitments during the search. I will strive to pray for the Pastor Search Committee as they faithfully and sacrificially go about their work. I will make every effort to pray for my next pastor to sense God's leading to our church. I will strive to pray that his family will be able to make a smooth transition to our church as well.
- I will strive to be patient during the pastor search process. I recognize that while the average pastor search process lasts for 12-18 months, our process could take longer. I will seek to trust in God's timing, and I will make every effort to refrain from placing any additional pressure on the Pastor Search Committee if they fail to present a pastor candidate on my preferred timetable.
- I will strive to be productive during the pastor search process, recognizing that the church is still the church even while we don't have a pastor. I will continue to cultivate a growing relationship with the Lord through my practice of the personal spiritual disciplines. I will seek to use my spiritual gifts to serve the Lord and His church, and I will make every effort to avoid slacking off in any of my current church commitments. I will also faithfully seek to share the gospel as God gives me the opportunity with those outside the church.

Sign and Date