

First Church of Monson
Pastoral Search Committee for 2016

When is a Pastoral Search Committee convened?

A Pastoral Search Committee for a settled pastor is established when a vacancy occurs in the pastorate of the Church and dissolved at the completion of its appointed task. The process begins when the Interim Pastor and Church Council agree that the congregation is ready to search for a settled pastor. This process will begin in January 2016.

How are the candidates for the Pastoral Search Committee selected?

Church Council starts the process of establishing a Pastoral Search Committee by soliciting participation from covenant members. All interested members will submit their names to Church Council by March 13 for consideration. At its March meeting, Church Council will narrow the list to fifteen (15) nominees.

Who elects the actual Search Committee?

The fifteen candidates for the Pastoral Search Committee will have their photos and qualifications presented to the congregation through a posting in the Fellowship Hall and in an article in *The Messenger* for May. At a special meeting called in May specifically to elect a Pastoral Search Committee, the covenant members of First Church will vote by paper ballot to elect nine (9) members to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee.

What does the Pastoral Search Committee do?

The Pastoral Search Committee will meet for the first time in June 2016. It will elect a chair and begin the process of searching for a new Minister. Working with a representative from the Massachusetts Conference of the UCC, it will survey the members of First Church, write a church profile, send out the profile to prospective candidates, and interview promising candidates who respond.

When will the Pastoral Search Committee finish its work?

When the Pastoral Search Committee finds an appropriate candidate for First Church, it will report its findings to the Church body with its recommendations regarding the Minister's salary, tenure of office, and duties. Then at a congregational meeting, the covenant members will vote on the candidate presented by the Pastoral Search Committee.

How long will this process take?

Although it is hard to estimate, the earliest completion date is probably June 2017. The process can take longer, of course.