

How to Present the Candidate to the Congregation

This process is crucial to an informed decision by the church. The committee must do two things simultaneously, anticipate and meet the needs of a church decision; provide a clear invitation to the candidate and his family.

The church constitution and by-laws might provide a clear procedure for calling a pastor. If so, it should be strictly followed, but with personal warmth that is characteristic of the congregation. You are inviting its prospective lead family to be a part of its fellowship, ministry and life. Things must be in order.

A written recommendation and introduction of the candidate should be provided to the church at least a week prior to the vote on the candidate. This must be done in a manner that does not cause undue concern in the current pastorate of the candidate. The candidate must appreciate the need for your church to be informed and in prayer about this historic decision in the life of the church.

A brief biographical sketch with picture of candidate and family is very appropriate. A brief statement of the type of ministry in which the minister is currently serving and a succinct explanation as to the conviction of the committee in presenting this candidate should be shared. This explanation is not to be a campaign speech to sway the votes of the church, but rather an open explanation as to the process used by the committee to bring this particular candidate before the church.