

How to Make a Recommendation and Vote on the Pastoral Candidate

The process of calling a pastoral candidate:

- 1. The committee should announce the vote two Sundays in advance of when the candidate will preach in "view-of-a-call."*
- 2. The candidate should preach either the Sunday morning or Sunday evening service.*
- 3. Upon the conclusion of the service, the candidate and family members should be excused from the auditorium, escorted to a comfortable waiting place.*
- 4. The Pastor Search Committee should lead the church to conduct a secret ballot vote regarding the call of the candidate as pastor. (It is strongly suggested that children and youth be asked to immediately sit with their parents, and parents should be given a few minutes to discuss this important occasion with them prior to the vote.)*
- 5. Pray with the congregation for God's will to be done in this matter.*
- 6. Each active member should be provided a secret ballot and those voting should circle the vote **yes** or **no**, or instruct the congregation to write yes or no.*
- 7. The Pastor Search Committee should count the ballots.*
- 8. It is suggested that a vote to call the candidate as pastor should require 75% of the voting ballots (see Church Constitution for required percentages).*
- 9. The congregation should be prepared to sing a couple of songs or hymns until the votes are counted and the candidate is asked for a response.*

The results of the vote should be shared with the congregation waiting in the worship center. The candidate and family should be told the result of the vote in private. Should the vote be favorable, at that time he should be asked to announce to those in the worship center his acceptance of the call as pastor. The pastor should begin duties approximately one month after the call (or a time determined in his interview).

If the vote is not favorable, be prepared to make an announcement to the congregation immediately; and regroup the committee to proceed with your next candidate.