

## Commissioning Service for the PNC

This service can be used immediately following election of the Pastor Nominating Committee or on another date.

Prayer

Romans 12:1-8

(Members of the Pastor Nominating Committee will be asked to come forward.)

Moderator: You have been chosen to serve this church family in a special way. Together you will seek a candidate for pastor, associate pastor, or co-pastor of this congregation. I ask you now to respond to the following questions:

Will you make every effort to be diligent in this task, to be present at all training sessions and committee meetings, and to share in all committee decisions?

Committee members: **I WILL.**

Will you respect the other committee members in this task, work with them in love and forbearance when opinions differ?

**I WILL.**

Will you maintain an openness about the persons you will interview, recognizing that ministers and candidates for the ministry are to be considered without regard to their race, ethnic origin, sex, marital status, age, or disability?

**I WILL.**

Will you maintain the necessary confidentiality of this task, even in regard to members of your own family?

**I WILL.**

(Family members of the committee members will be asked to stand)

You are also assuming an important task in the life of this church because you will have to give up time with the member of your family on this committee and, perhaps, assume some of his or her obligations. Will you answer these questions?

As you experience the new demands placed on your family member's time and strength, will you strive to cheerfully and prayerfully support that person?

**I WILL.**

Will you respect your family member's need for maintaining confidentiality?

**I WILL.**

(The congregation will be asked to stand)

This committee will be working on behalf of the entire congregation and will need its support and encouragement. Will you answer these questions?

Will you keep these committee members in your thoughts and prayers in the months ahead, praying for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for their work?

**I WILL.**

Will you trust that God is guiding them and those in Grace Presbytery who are working with them? Will you support them with patience and humor?

**I WILL.**

Will you, relying upon the Holy Spirit, resist forming images of what your new pastor should look like or be like, trusting the committee's skills and intentions to discern worthy qualities of ministry in this place?

**I WILL.**

Will you respect the need for confidentiality in this search process?

**I WILL.**

Will you understand that members of this committee may not be able to carry their usual share of the other responsibilities of this congregation?

**I WILL.**

Let us pray:

Almighty God: How many are the ways we serve you within your Church! We thank you for these persons who have pledged themselves to this task of seeking a new leader for this congregation. Enlarge their gifts and help them to discover your will. Together we now dedicate ourselves to them and to you, that we may fulfill our mission faithfully and be your joyful people. Through Christ we pray. **Amen.**