HowThe Committee Can Pray

Pray. If your desire is that the Holy Spirit will lead you together through your search then the whole process, from start to finish, must be bathed in prayer. Your search for a pastor will be an exercise in spiritual warfare so you must “pray at all times in the Spirit… and stay alert,” (Eph. 6:18). Carve out 15-30 minutes before every committee meeting to pray together. Prayer topics to consider for your committee’s regular seasons of prayer together include:

* Each other. Take time to pray for each other’s families, jobs, friends, health and any other areas of personal life where Satan may attack. The best Pastor Search Committees not only move forward together, but also grow together through the process. By the end of this pastor search, you should have grown together as brothers and sisters in Christ.
* Future pastor and family. You do not know who this man is, but God does. Pray that God would begin to turn his heart toward your congregation, and that he would finish well where he is currently serving. Pray for his wife and children, if he has them. Pray that the Lord will put people around him who will confirm this new calling in his life and the life of his family.
* Future pastor’s current church family. If he is currently pastoring now, a group of men and women will likely be sitting in your chair in less than a year. Pray that their future season of pastoral transition will be one of Spirit-filled unity and favor from God.
* Your church family. Transitions do not usually create problems; rather, they expose them. Many things can surface in seasons of transition: power plays, financial difficulty, frustrations, volunteer vacuums and more. Pray that the Lord will guard your fellowship against every attack of the enemy and that unity and peace would be evident through the entire search process.
* Your committee’s work. Pray that the Lord will guide you together, in unity, toward the man He has selected to be your future pastor. God’s man in God’s time—no exceptions.