**Unanimity**

* – The suggestion of unanimity does not mean there should be no disagreement among the committee members during the process. Again, it is to be emphasized that members of the Committee should feel the freedom to express contrary views. There may be a point in the process when one member says, “I have reservations about this person.” In that case, the process invites and encourages honest discussion regarding feelings and opinions. Enough time should be taken to allow either a meeting of the minds on the candidate being considered or a change of course. The importance of unanimity comes toward the end of the process when the Committee is ready to recommend a candidate to the church. At that point, you would expect there to be excitement and enthusiasm among the entire Committee, so much so that it is contagious throughout the congregation. Unanimity among the committee members at the point of recommendation is simply a result of fervently praying, and diligently seeking and following God’s will.

A word of caution may be in order. In a very few instances, one contrary Search Committee member has tried to high-jack the process by voting in opposition to a candidate whom the other members of the team categorically support. Unless a reasonable case can be built for this member’s opposition, the team should move ahead and the member should either support the decision or resign from the Committee. The Search Committee, as a whole, must be cautious not to allow the will of God to be thwarted by an illogical member of the Search Committee.