

**LITANY FOR COMMISSIONING  
A PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE**

**Invitation** Barth Hague

**The Word** 1 Corinthians 12:4-12

**Response**

Moderator: There are different gifts,

**People: But it is the same Spirit who gives them.**

Moderator: Each one is given a gift by the Spirit

**People: To be used for the common good.**

**Address to the Committee Members:**

Sisters and Brothers, you have committed yourselves to a significant leadership task on behalf of the entire congregation. In recognition of the importance of your work, we pause to express our gratitude and to remind ourselves that you do not undertake this task alone; you will be guided by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the prayerful support of the members of this church, and the assistance of the Western District Conference of the Mennonite Church USA.

**Covenant**

**Committee Members:** We who are serving on the Search Committee for the Shalom Mennonite Church of Newton, Kansas, promise to perform faithfully the vital task of searching for a new pastor. We pledge, with God's guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do, say, and decide.

We will endeavor:

to establish a harmonious working relationship within our committee;

to maintain consistent attendance at our Search Committee meetings;

to be open and patient listeners to each other and to the congregation;

to listen carefully to your hopes and dreams as we consult with you, the members, in the development of a description of our church community and the style of pastoral leadership we seek;

to maintain strict confidentiality in all we read, say, and hear—protecting both the privacy of each other and of potential candidates;

to review all profiles with open minds and hearts, treating all candidates fairly and justly;

to seek decisions not made by majority rule, but by the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church.

**People**

**We pledge, as a gathered community of faith, to be patient with you and to respect your need to be confidential in your task. We recognize that the work of our search committee is a difficult assignment and will take much effort. We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this time.**

**These things we promise in the hope and belief that you will be obedient to the guidance of the spirit as you seek a new pastor to minister with us.**

**Closing Prayer**

Rob Burdette

**Search Committee Members**

Juan Coy Teni  
Ron Flaming  
Andrea Yoder Graber  
Abby Hatch  
Laurie Hesed  
Jason Miller  
Zandra Sawatzky  
Marilyn Wohlgemuth

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