

Prayer for the Congregation During the Search Process

God of welcome and wisdom,
guide us through this season of search and transition.

Bless the Search Committee with patience, courage, honesty
and care.

Sustain them in the effort of listening, discerning, meeting,
wondering and deciding.

Protect them from weariness, pressure, and anxiety, and
surround their work with trust and prayer.

Bless each potential candidate who may enter this process.
May they be met with dignity, openness, and grace.
Help us remember that they, too, are listening for your call.

Bless this congregation as we continue the work of ministry.
Keep us faithful in worship, generous in service, gentle with
one another, and open to the future you are preparing.

Shape us into a community where all belong,
where truth is spoken with grace,
where gifts are shared in love,
and where Christ's welcome is visible in all we do.

Lead us toward the pastoral partnership that will help us grow
in faith, trust, joy and service.
Give us open hearts, steady spirits, and hopeful lives as your
mercy is made new among us.

Amen.

BUCC Pastoral Search Committee 2026

Thea Cunningham

Peg Duffy

Diane Gressley

Carrol Miller

Evie Novak

Heidi Spangler

Sue Stenzel

Tim Wallis

Joe Wilson (chair)

We received nearly 30 nominations for the Pastoral Search Committee, and we are grateful to everyone willing to serve. Every nominee brings valuable gifts that would have benefited the committee.

Per our Constitution, the committee is limited to nine members. The selected members were chosen through an AI-assisted process using information gathered from the nomination submissions, along with insights from the Mission and Vision Café sessions, to create a well-balanced representation of our congregation. Each selected person was contacted individually and agreed to serve.

We are confident this committee will work well together, and we will support them throughout the search process. As provided by our Constitution, the final pastoral candidate(s) will lead a Sunday worship service, allowing the congregation to meet them, share their perspectives, and help inform the final call decision.**

**BUCC Constitution: "The Pastoral Search Committee will recommend a candidate to Church Council. Upon the concurrence of the Church Council, the candidate will be invited to meet the congregation and conduct a worship service. The church council shall call a special congregational meeting to act upon a call to the pastorate. An 80% affirmative vote of those active and associate members present and voting shall constitute a call. The search process is to be repeated if the call is not confirmed by vote or if the call is not accepted by the candidate."