



The Presbytery of
DONEGAL

Steps to Launch the Search for an Installed Pastor

7. Approve the PNC Budget

The session approves the budget for the PNC, either from the annual budget or from other funds available for this purpose. This budget covers the cost of the PNC, including bringing candidates on site, or visiting candidates in their locations

8. Call a Meeting of the Congregation to Elect the PNC

The Nominating Committee proposes a slate of 5-9 people for the PNC for election by the congregation. In many cases, a session member or a member of the Nominating Committee explains the PNC to the congregation and invites suggestions. A “youth” PNC member is often elected.

9. Approve the MIF

The PNC writes the MIF based upon the data gathered by the session. After the MIF is complete, it must be approved by the Session.

Session Responsibilities Later in The Process

1. Receive regular monthly reports from the PNC

The session has the right to know “how” the search is going, and where the PNC is in the process. The session may not know the identities or other confidential details.

2. Call the Meeting of the Congregation to elect the Pastor and Participate in Planning for the Candidating Weekend

When there is a candidate, the PNC will bring the terms of call to the session for final approval. The session will approve and participate in plans for the candidating weekend, call the meeting of the congregation, and participate in plans for support of the new pastor once they are on the field. The identity of the candidate is revealed at this meeting, and congregational communications are dispatched in the next day or so after the session meeting.

3. Develop the Plan for the Pastoral Start-Up and Support

When the new pastor or co-pastor begins service, support is needed for “on-boarding” and for navigating the first year of service. COM recommends the Presbytery of Donegal Coaching/Equipping Process and will consult with the session/Personnel Committee to adopt a plan. Members of the PNC often are included in the support team for the new pastor.