

The following is a text copy of the report that Pastor Ray gave at the Annual Council meeting on Wednesday, January 25th. This report was given on behalf of the Search Committee for the position of Worship Director.

A year ago we decided that we were going to add a Worship Director to our staff. We were told by those who had done this before, "Don't be surprised if it takes you a year or longer to fill the slot" and it was a good thing they told us that.

Since that time, the Church Board selected a Search Committee, and the committee is Dotti Zimmerman, Julie Bohon, Chris Bumbaugh, Angie Petersheim, Lin Yoder, and myself.

The six of us began meeting and developed a procedure on this; we also developed a priority grid for areas we wanted to look for in a candidate, the areas of giftedness, the character traits. The Church Board helped to prioritize a grid so that as we received applications, it helped us to know what we were looking for.

We advertised on ChurchStaffing.com, which we were told might be profitable. We've had input and recommendations from individuals as well. We put out the advertisement and we've received approximately 20 applications. We have interviewed 5 different people and have extended an invitation to audition to 3 of them. 2 of them have taken us up on this offer, which provides an opportunity for them to come and show us some of their skills and giftedness. We are currently in process with the latest applicant.

Because we are a diverse group of people, it is a challenge, because the area of worship is an emotional decision that we are working with. And so the committee is having longer sessions than we anticipated when we started out. But they have been good discussions as we wrestle with "Who do we believe will best fit."

We're waiting for the Lord to show us who it is and waiting for the Lord to show that person that Five Forks is where He wants them to serve.

- Pastor Ray