

Appendix 9

Letter to Minister Regarding Questionnaire

Dear _____:

Thank you for your willingness to discuss with our committee the possibility of your coming to serve as the pastor of our church.

We are grateful for the time you have given in order for us to become better acquainted with your ministry and your family. We certainly believe that this is the direction God would have us to move.

We recognize that we have a responsibility to be honest and open with you in order to build a strong, caring relationship of trust. We acknowledge, also, a responsibility to our congregation and expectations they have of us. Therefore, we request that you answer the questions on the enclosed sheet and return it to us for our files. These are questions we wish we did not need to ask, but we want to assure a strong relationship of trust for the future.

If you do not come to serve as our pastor, the questionnaire will be returned to you; and no copies of it will be made. If you become our pastor, the questionnaire will be placed in a closed file and used only to substantiate that the committee followed a thorough process in determining the suitability of the person called to serve as pastor.

Unfortunately, we live in a time of infrequent but occasionally documented abuses from members of the clergy. We also live in a time when churches are not immune to litigation. Please understand that these questions are not meant to insinuate any negative thinking or distrust on our part. We simply sense a need to have this information on file for your and our protection. Should there be any response that is problematic, we can honestly report that it was discussed by the committee, dealt with, and an informed decision made to proceed.

You are asked to answer the questions and return the enclosed questionnaire to the chairperson of the committee. Thank you for your assistance in this matter!

Sincerely,

Pastor Search Committee Chairperson