

North West Region  
Minister and President Search Committee

Members: Gary Shoemaker, Edie Rice-Sauer, Shilo Barker, David Helseth, Cherilyn Williams, Pastor Nam, Bill Robey, Griselda Rivera, Chris Harvey, Debbie Starkey, Chair.

As I have reported earlier, we have been very blessed by the addition of Ben Boren to our committee. Ben is the Regional Minister from the Northern California Region. It seems common practice now for Regional Search and Call to have a Regional Minister who is familiar with your region act as a support person. This lessens the load for our General Minister Sharon Watkins. However, Sharon does receive regular updates as to our progress.

Ben joined us last fall and continues to bring much wisdom as a resource and support. He is an expert in the world of search and call and continues to share his wealth of knowledge with our group. Ben joins us for most of our conference calls with an understanding of the complicated process and a much appreciated sense of humor. He regularly comments on our good and diligent work and is very encouraging. He truly brings an important presence and continues to hold the committee and our work up in prayer.

As important as Ben is to us, we also owe a great debt of gratitude to Amber. I can call or email her with my list of chores for her and she is extremely positive and thorough in her work. Most of her work consists of preparing the regional office for our meetings, adding our schedules to the calendar and making travel arrangements. But I can't tell you what a load of work she takes off my plate and I am very grateful for her expert help.

As of this report the committee has narrowed the field to our "short list". We have been in the process of checking references for our list of candidates. We have created a common list of questions to be used in interviewing each of the references. So every reference will be asked the same list of questions to help us to continue with discernment.

The process of elimination from the 14 candidates to our short list seemed to happen in phases. There were the first few who really were not appropriate for the job, those that will be amazing for Regional and General Church work after some further experience and then those left who made a great first impression but after further investigation and discussion, for differing reasons were not the right fit for the North West Region.

The list we are left with consists of amazing people and we do not have an easy choice ahead of us. Any of the remaining candidates would make a great Regional Minister for the North West Region. On the other hand it is a great relief to the committee that we do have such qualified and desirable candidates to choose from.

Along with continuing conversations with references the committee is preparing for the time when we will begin face to face discussions with candidates. I think we are all hoping for some sign that will make our choice an easy one, but at this time, it does seem that the selection will be a difficult one.

One of the biggest challenges the committee experiences is a common one to our region because of the distances we must travel. Our challenge is to have the entire committee experience as much as possible as one. When we schedule interviews with candidates, we feel it is important that the committee not be divided up to visit with different candidates. It has been a challenge to schedule all we need to do and keep the time, conversations and experiences the same for the each committee member. You can thank the entire committee for giving up weekends, evenings and family events to make this all possible. Each member has been generous with their time and commitment to our efforts and I am grateful to each for their time, wisdom and dedication.

We continue to open and close each meeting in prayer and at momentous moments we stop and thank the Lord for making His presence know to us and to know that He is guiding and supporting us at all times.

We ask that you all continue to hold the committee in prayer as we move forward with this awe-inspiring task.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Starkey  
Chair