Seek God to Seek A Pastor: Vital Steps for Search Committees and Their Congregations*, by Gregory Frizzell,* is an excellent resource for search teams. It can be ordered from the author's website. It is too high on Amazon. Here is a link to the website:
http://frizzellministries.org/seeking-god-to-seek-a-pastor/
We should have some copies at the Associational Office, which is located at Central Baptist in Gaffney, 500 E. Montgomery St. (864) 489-3119

Quotes & Highlights:

"When churches truly learn to "seek God to seek a pastor," they can find the right pastor and spiritual renewal in the process. With God, it is not about "just finding the right pastor." It is also about becoming the "right church" through deeper prayer and renewal. Whether churches are large or small, healthy or in turmoil, they can experience Christi's presence in the interim." (Frizzell, xx)

"If you are serving on a pastor search committee, this may well be the most far-reaching task you will ever embrace. Your decision (good or bad), will profoundly affect countless lives for many years to come. Beyond question, your church will rise or fall on the quality of pastor leadership you secure. By the work you now do, God's kingdom will be mightily impacted for good or ill. Because this task demands such keen spiritual discernment, it is vital to remember the following principle of guidance. Pastors search committees can only be as effective as the prayer lives and spiritual cleansing of the individual members!" (pg.28)

"Mark this well—the greater your church's potential, the more you have Satan's attention….But fear not! If committees dedicate themselves to fervent prayer and thoroughness, the enemy cannot succeed." (pg.29)

"It is frankly unimaginable that a committee would undertake this most spiritual of tasks without embracing a deep process of prayer and cleansing." (pg.29)

"Make no mistake—God seldom wastes an "above average" leader on people unwilling to embrace "above average" commitment." (pg.44)

"Believers, if we keep following the same basic patterns, why would we think their will be significantly different results?" (pg.48)

Five Unique Purposes of This Book

1.) Equip committees and church members to pray more effectively and experience God as they seek a new pastor. This tool helps committees and churches experience the kind of prayer and cleansing that allows for clear hearing of Christ's voice.
2.) Help churches encounter God in spiritual awakening, unity, and vision for the future.
3.) Enable committees to discern the key areas where their church needs strategic adjustment, change and growth.
4.) Equip committees to hear God's still, small voice in the midst of a sea of "seemingly" good choices.
5.) Provide committees with effective tools for discerning the full beliefs and ministry patterns of a prospective pastor. (xxii-xxiii)

Key sections and Tools

- **Ethical Standards for Search Committees (pg.25)**
- **Sabbaticals (pgs.45-46)**
- **Seven Priority Practices of Empowered Churches (pgs.50-58)**
- **Four Essential Characteristics of an Effective Pastor (pgs.59-65)**
- **Guidelines and Questions for getting to know the potential Pastor (pgs. 69-128)**

Appendices:

- Appendix: A Spiritual Preparation Guide for Search Committee Meetings
- Appendix G: Strategies for Uniting Congregations in Effective Prayer
- Appendix H: Prayer Covenants for the Search Committee and Church
- Appendix J: Formats for Corporate Prayer Times
- Appendix Q: The Congregation Survey
- Appendix U: Conducting a Get-Acquainted Weekend
- Appendix W: Giving The Pastor a Good Start and First Year Transition