



Things to Consider as You Begin Your Search

Minister Profile Advice

- Keep essay questions in your profile relatively short and to the point as much as possible.
- It's okay to be vulnerable and authentic, but only share what you're comfortable sharing, and remember that it's a professional setting.
- If you're catering your profile to a particular church, remember to review the church's profile as it may prompt you to highlight particular skills or experience. Church profiles can be requested from the Office of Ministry Services (ministryservices@rca.org).
- Make sure your profile is free of grammar and spelling errors.
- Have others edit your profile and offer feedback.

Search Strategies

- Monitor the [Employment Opportunities page](#) to keep on top of new listings.
- Reach out to key people in your denominational network to let them know you're searching and to ask for any connections or recommendations they might have:
 - Pastors
 - Seminary professors
 - Mentors
 - Classis pastors
- Reach out to Regional Synod leaders and classis clerks for areas you are interested in serving to let them know you're searching in their region. Include your Minister Profile, pastoral resume (if you have one), and letters of recommendation. Contact information for classis clerks may be requested from the Office of Ministry Services (ministryservices@rca.org).
- Share your Minister Profile, pastoral resume, and letters of recommendation with the Office of Ministry Services (ministryservices@rca.org). They can share your profile as widely or as focused as you would like.
- Whenever you contact a search team about your interest, always include:

- Specialized cover letter: This is an important way that you can demonstrate to the search team that you have looked into the background of their church, reviewed the church profile, and make a case for why you would be a uniquely good fit for their congregation.
- Pastoral Resume or Curriculum Vitae (if the minister profile does not cover the breadth of your relevant work history).
- Recommendation letters from key people.