

Senior Pastor Call Team

2/4/25 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Beth Agner, Emily Arner, Kathy Bailey, Matt Bass, Cathy DeMarchi, Jerry Garlington, Donna Lehman-Deming, Jonathan Froelich, Josh Hoopingarner, Ruth Lassiter, Teri O'Neill, Bill Stevens, Greg Stinton, Jacob Wilson

Call to Order: 7:03pm

1. Opening Prayer, introductions and comments: Jerry Garlington
 - Vision casting was held on 2/2/25 and those notes and follow-up tasks will be handled by that team. The Hope vision casting will be shared with the called Pastors.
 - Introduction of Pastor Mike Merker, Circuit Visitor
2. Circuit Visitor Introduction to the Call Process: Pastor Mike Merker
 - Discussed the Call Process Manual provided by the LCMS, why we need to follow this process for this call, offered his assistance as needed, and to contact him once we have a list of nominations for him to research
 - Reviewed the process at the LCMS level and how pastors are kept on the list or removed from the list by LCMS or themselves
 - Reiterated the need for honesty about our church, transparency and timely actions for this process
 - Reiterated that this is a complicated process unlike any other job opening situation and the call pool is limited, but not impossible
 - Explained that the person that we call will not be the perfect candidate that checks all the boxes, but is the best fit with our congregation profile
 - Gave us the 1st step ... to create the Congregational Profile before we can proceed
3. Review of the Nominations
 - Received 12 nomination sheets over the past weekend, but only 2 names
 - We will collect the additional nominations through 2/23/25
4. Assignment of Tasks:
 - Jerry to post the Call Process steps on the Hope Call Team link
 - Emily, Jerry and Beth to try to locate the previous Congregational Profile used to call the Associate Pastor
 - Josh to reach out to the MLT for the job responsibilities for the upcoming Pastor
 - Team members to review the Congregational Profile in the Call Process Manual provided by the LCMS, pages 19-30 before the next meeting and be prepared to create the new profile at the next mtg
 - Cathy to distribute the Call Process manual to those not in possession and post meeting minutes on the Hope Call Team link
5. Next Meeting Scheduled: Tues, Feb 18th at 7pm
6. Closing Prayer and comments: Jerry Garlington

Meeting adjourned: 8:57pm