



Friday, June 25, 2021

Dear St. Peter's Family,

The Divine Call Committee, appointed by the Board of Elders, presented the Elders with their recommendation for the Senior Pastor candidate list after eight months of prayer, interviews, and meetings. The Elders unanimously approved the recommendation of the Divine Call Committee, which contains one name, Pastor John Cordrey.

We are asking for your prayerful consideration to extend a Divine Call.

This letter is the official notification of the Elders' candidate list for the office of Senior Pastor to be presented at a special Voter's Assembly. The Church Council has provided the following schedule:

FORUM 1

Thursday, July 8 5:30-6:30pm in The Den

This will be a Q & A time with a few Elders and members of the Call Committee.

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Sunday, July 11 9:15-10:30am, in the West Gym

Sunday, July 11 6-7:30pm in the Sanctuary

- Sr. Pastor Candidate, Pastor John Cordrey will be our guest
- Council and Elders will host, the emcee will be Pastor Teike
- Submit questions in the box located in the narthex or at Molly's desk (Door A) or email callcommittee@stpeters-columbus.org by Thursday, July 8
- The evening town hall meeting will be recorded.

FORUM 2

Sunday, July 18 9:15-10:30 in the West Gym

This forum will include a time to view the Town Hall recording and ask questions with select Elders and Call Committee members.

VOTERS' MEETING to Extend a Divine Call to Pastor John Cordrey

Monday, July 26 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

—Board of Elders and Church Council

**More candidate information
will be shared soon**

Who is Pastor John Cordrey?



John and Melissa



Above, L to R: Caleb, Catherine, Andrew, Allison. Below: Matthew.

Pastor John and his wife, Melissa, are celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary this month. They have five children: Matthew (18), Andrew (15), Catherine (9), Caleb (8), and Allison (6).

PERSONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- He is currently serving as an associate Pastor in Trinity Klein Lutheran Church in Spring, Texas. They have 3,000+ members and average 1,350 for weekly worship attendance.
- He grew up in California.
- His hobbies: music, NASCAR fan, working on Classic VW Beetle, and working in the yard.
- He's a musician (guitar and singing), enjoys leading worship band in his current setting and excels in ministry with families and small groups.
- He's creative and innovative.
- He's self-reflective, transparent, and a mentor.
- He's laid-back and casual.
- Pastoral Leadership Institute (2011-2014), specialized training/certification in conflict resolution, congregational healing, and institutional chaplaincy
- Pastoral Ministry for 16 years, graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. First Call was to St. Peter Lutheran Church, Roanoke, Tx (August 2006-May 2009)

JOHN'S MINISTRY VIEWS

- Goal: Connect people to Christ.
- Ask questions to get to know people and be willing to listen and learn.
- The Kingdom is not bound by the four walls of the church.
- Supportive of the day school:
 - Church staff should be present in the school and get to know the kiddos and parents.
 - Service opportunities for families and classes with church families
 - Has stepped in to teach religion when he saw a teacher struggling with work overload.
- Balance the needs of 5th-generation church members and people who still aren't showing up at church.
- Holds strong to Biblical truth, but oozes love for people.
- Validates others feelings so they know they are being heard.
- Believes in raising up and equipping people to serve.
- Context is awesome, but you have to have connection, too.
- Diverse leadership is needed for a diverse congregation
- Community/social ministry is essential—it's all about building bridges.



Call Committee

JUNE 25, 2021 Update

DIVINE CALL QUOTE FROM THE INDIANA DISTRICT OFFICE

"The calling congregation needs to constantly bear in mind that it is not hiring an employee but asking God to send them a pastor. The prayerful manner in which the call process is handled is probably more significant than whether or not an interview or visitation is conducted."

JOIN THE PRAYER TEAM

Please email callcommittee@stpeters-columbus.org and we will add you to the team.

“Lord, you know everyone’s heart.

Show us which of these...men you have chosen.” Acts 1:24

CHECKLIST & INTERVIEW PROCESS

- Elders and Church Council select Call Committee members, **completed October 2020.**
- Weekly Call Committee meetings, **first meeting November 2, 2020.**
- Set up a prayer team, **started November 3, 2020 and ongoing**
- Council and Elders finalize senior pastor job description, **completed November 20, 2020.**
- Contact the Indiana District President’s Office with our plan, **completed November 2020.**
- Church Council and Elders submit the Congregational Survey and Assessment to the District Office and Circuit Visitor, **completed November 2020.**
- Meet with our area Circuit Visitor, Pastor Todd Riordan, **first meeting November 17, 2020.**
- Monthly Call Committee Updates to the Congregation (eblasts, website, hardcopies, Door A box), **first update sent December 2020.**
- Submit candidate names to the District President’s office for review, **completed.**
- Receive names from the congregation, **completed.** District Office, **completed.**
- Initial contacts with **29 candidates, completed.**
- Create interview questions based on job description, **completed.**
- **Step 1** - All candidates invited (video email and phone call) to a 45-minute pre-screening interview based on specific criteria and job description qualifications, **completed.**
- **Step 2** - Pre-screen 12 candidates (45-minutes with each candidate), including Pastor Chad Foster, **all pre-screening completed 2/1/21.**

- **Step 3-** Review candidate bios provided by the District office with our Circuit Visitor, **completed 3/22/21.**
- **Step 4 -** Send SPL promotional materials “the tube” to “Round 2” candidates, **completed.**
- **Step 5 -** “Round 2” 90-minute interviews, via Zoom, with four (4) candidates and thank you gift, **completed 4/8/21.**
- **Step 6 -** Call Committee will invite two-four candidates to visit Columbus, **completed.**
- **Step 7 -** Two onsite interviews, with spouses, **completed in May.**
- **Step 8 -** Reference checks and background checks on final two candidates, **completed June 14.**
- **Step 9 -** Call Committee submit recommendation to Elders, **completed June 8.**

IN-PROCESS IN JUNE-AUGUST

- **Step 10 -** The Elders and Church Council mailed the candidate list of one name, Pastor John Cordery, to the congregation, **sent Friday, June 25.**
- **Step 11 -** Three (3) weeks before the Voters’ meeting as a time to pray and provide an opportunity for questions at open forums and a Town Hall.
- **Step 12 -** Elders present their candidate list, one name - Pastor John Cordrey, to Voters’ to extend a Divine Call, **Monday, July 26, 6:30pm, in the Sanctuary. Our Circuit Visitor has been invited to attend this special Voters Assembly.**
- **Step 13 -** Following Call meeting, notify District President’s office and Circuit Visitor
- **Step 14 -** It is likely the pastor and spouse will visit again to discuss the Divine Call.
- **Step 15 -** Celebration or regroup on next steps if the pastor declines the Divine Call.
- **Step 16 -** Succession plan

MORE INFORMATION

The Divine Call Committee would like to keep everyone informed as we journey through this process together. You can find more detailed information on our website at www.stpeterscolumbus.org and click on the “Senior Pastor Call Information.”

QUESTIONS

If you have questions related to the Call Process, please contact Bob Middendorf, chair of the Board of Elders at rmiddendorf@outlook.com or Tom Dunker at tomwdunker@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRAY

- For God's continuing guidance in the call process
- For the pastoral candidates to have hearts open to God's call
- For a spirit of unity in our congregation as we move forward in this process
- *Acts. 1:24 Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these...men you have chosen...*
- *Proverbs 16:3. Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.*
- *Proverbs 16:9. In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps.*
- *1 Peter 5:7. Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.*