

Notes from Call Committee Q and A on September 21, 2008

At the start of the meeting, the Call Committee fielded several questions related to the co-terminus status of Pastor Miriam and David Beecher and the possibility of continuing their service at COS. Pastor Wallace explained the reasons for co-terminus within the ELCA. Pastor Wallace further made it clear that COS was not doing anything out of the ordinary in requesting and holding the resignations of the Beechers. Please refer to Pastor Miriam's letter to all members dated April 22, 2008. The Call Committee asked, and continues to ask, for the prayers of everyone for the faith that the Holy Spirit will guide us.

Where in the process are we and what will you [the CC] be doing in the next 3-4 months?

The Congregational Profile was submitted in early September to the Bishop's office. The Synod can now begin to match up candidates that fit the profile. They are however wanting COS to proceed slowly and allow time for the adjustment process to take place. Having a Senior Pastor for 34 years is a long time. COS needs time to figure out their identity without John before they are ready to receive a new pastor.

Suggestion: Put a copy of the Congregational Profile in the library.

Note: that is now done. It is also available on the web site under Transition tab.

How are mobility papers considered by the CC?

The CC will consider mobility papers prayerfully by seeking wisdom and discernment through Holy Spirit's guidance. We will be relying on the Holy Spirit to guide us to phone interviews and visits to hear them preach. When the CC feels they are witnessing God's call, the candidate is presented to Council and the congregation to confirm the call.

What is the timeline because I know Pastor Dave is only staying for 9 months?

Pastor Dave wants the summer months off to be with his children and grandchildren. This seemed fair since he is retired. However, he has agreed to return to COS next September if we are still in a call position. If we are without a Senior Pastor next summer, all of us will need to work together to fill the gap. It is more important not to rush the process.

Will we get to hear candidates preach before the call?

It is not advisable to have a candidate come and preach. It puts too much on one sermon. The CC will go visit candidates in their church and listen to them. This is done discreetly however because often their congregation is not aware they have submitted mobility papers.

How does the Synod get mobility papers and how is the search conducted by the Synod?

The search is done nation wide because of the size of COS. First the Synod has a pile of current mobility papers already submitted. The second way the search is promoted is through relationships with other Bishops. There maybe someone who does not consider mobility until are opportunity presents itself and they feel called. Then mobility papers would be submitted. Pastors who want to be considered must submit mobility papers as well as speak to their Bishop in accordance to the ELCA guidelines.

Since we have a pulpit relationship with the Episcopal and Methodist Churches, could we get a candidate from those churches?

Yes we could. The Bishop puts out feelers in those communities.

How long can we expect the next pastor to stay?

As long as the person feels the call.

What are the chances that we would get a person of color or gender that would bring diversity? It is possible and up to what COS wants.

The meeting was closed in prayer led by Pastor Wallace. The Call Committee asks that the congregation be in continuous prayer. Pray that COS have the courage and wisdom needed to trust the Lord and be guided by the Holy Spirit.