

Special Congregation Assembly Minutes—Dec 3, 2023

1. Governance Board Chair, Todd Wegman, opened the Congregational Assembly at 3:35 pm on Sunday Dec 3, 2023.
2. Elder, Rene Stein, led the opening devotion and prayer.
3. Attendance: 51 confirmed members attended in-person, meeting quorum requirements for voting.
4. Robin Miliner, Call Committee Chair, introduced the Call Committee and explained the Call process the committee intends to follow.
 - Once the Resolution is approved, a Congregational Survey will be distributed to begin the process of developing the Congregational profile. This survey gives every confirmed member an opportunity to share their thoughts on the congregation and a prospective pastor.
 - Concurrently, members may nominate pastoral candidates who are in good standing with the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS).
 - Once the surveys are quantified and analyzed, the Call Committee will work on the profile including collecting demographic data of the community, financial data, ministry highlights, etc. Once all is compiled the profile as well as nominations will be forwarded to the Southeastern District President.
 - The SED President will then develop an official Call list which will be sent to the Call Committee. The Call committee will interview the candidates.
 - Once interviews are completed, summaries of each candidate will be provided to the congregation. This information will be available hard-copy only and only for use in the church building due to confidentiality issues. No electronic copies will be distributed.
 - There likely will be a forum to answer any questions about the candidates before the Call service.
 - A Call worship service will be scheduled with the Circuit Visitor, who will conduct the service, at which time confirmed members, after prayerful consideration, will vote for the candidate of their choice. Balloting will continue until a pastor-elect is selected.
5. Discussion included questions:
 - Will there be a specific job description included in the packet? Answer: the packet provided to the SED President will include a lot of information about the congregation. A Pastor's basic job description is the same, but the needs of each congregation are different. That information will be shared during the interview process as well as in the actual Call packet that the Pastor-elect will receive.
 - What is the timeline for this process? Answer: Once resolution is approved, survey will be distributed (it is ready to go). Members will have 2 weeks to respond to the survey. Analyzing survey will take another few weeks. Compiling all the data for the Congregational profile will likely take until the end of January

when it will be submitted to the SED president. Turn around for an actual call list is unknown.

- Who will receive the survey? Answer: Confirmed members of OSLC and perhaps some active individuals who are not official members but consider themselves to be members and are active and in the area.
 - Liz DeMik was specifically thanked for spearheading the prayer effort for the Call process.
6. Todd Wegman read the resolution. Barbara Petersen moved that the resolution be accepted. Art Marshall seconded the motion. Discussion included one small amendment that allow the Circuit Visitor to designate another Pastor to lead the Call service should the Circuit Visitor not be available. Amendment accepted. Mark Cummata moved that the vote be called, Cheryl Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously and resolution was approved unanimously.
 7. Robb Wilmot, vice-chair of Call Committee, then explained the survey and the means by which it will be distributed: online via email, hard-copy, at church, working through survey with call committee member in-person or via phone. Robb noted that this survey will take some time to do thoughtfully. Ben Nold suggested a PDF fillable version that can be worked on and then used to submit to survey or downloaded and printed. Tina McGuffey said she can make a hidden webpage with all the information on one link. Survey QR code was displayed for soft start to those present.
 8. Pastor Flahn concluded the CA with prayer followed by Todd Wegman's dismissal at 4:30pm.

Minutes prepared by Tina McGuffey, Governance Board Secretary.