

03/06/2022 Call Committee Update

Since the last update, the Call Committee met on January 31, February 7, and March 1. The committee focused on finishing the Ministry Site Profile, a document spearheaded by Mark Wanda. The document has been approved by the Church Council and the Synod and is now available for pastors searching for new calls.

The committee met with Pastor Severson on February 7 to discuss the call process. The Synod is beginning the process of matching candidates. Candidates will be submitted to the Call Committee in groups of three to begin the interview process. To prepare for the upcoming interviews, the committee has begun to prepare questions for the candidates.

We are open to the best candidate for the next pastor at St. James. Since 2009, the ELCA has permitted persons in committed same sex relationships to be called as ELCA Pastors. At the same time, ELCA acknowledges that some members, congregations, synods, and Pastors hold a conscience-bound belief that such a call is not acceptable. As our committee met with the Synod representative, we were challenged to consider whether our committee is open to considering such a candidate whose qualifications and fit with St James appear strong.

At this week's meeting, after a month for private consideration and prayer, deep and open discussion led the committee to a consensus that we are open to considering such a candidate. The consensus was not unanimous but it was clear. This does not necessarily mean that we will recommend calling such a candidate, or even that one has been identified, but it does mean that we will not automatically eliminate such a person from consideration. All the committee members believe this is an important matter, as many of you will too, and we wanted to include it in our briefing to you. As always, see any committee member with questions or comments.