

09/11/2022 Call Committee Update

We are excited to invite you to meet the pastoral candidate at an open house on Saturday, September 24 from 11:15 AM-1:15 PM at church, so please save the date. On Sunday, September 25, a congregational meeting and vote will take place after church. Announcement letters were mailed to the congregation last week, as well as an announcement email. Of course, the open house information can be found in "Connections."

With the announcement of our pastor candidate's open house, we thought that a summary of the Call Committee's timeline for selecting the pastoral candidate would be beneficial for the congregation.

The Council appointed us to the Call Committee, and we were installed in January. As a group, we were genuinely pleased with how well we worked together. While we didn't agree on everything, we came together on everything. We strove to have all, or almost all, members attend meetings so that we were working collectively. Our first task was to finalize and submit the Ministry Site Profile, which the Synod used as a way to find potential pastoral candidates for St. James. In the Profile, we listed the tasks most important and the gifts most essential, based on both the direction given to us by Council and the feedback we received from individual members. This Pastor matched up with our priorities.

We met on Zoom for an initial interview, and then in person for a second interview. During the second interview process, we had a social dinner with the candidate and spouse, a 3-hour breakfast interview, and tours of the community and the church. During the breakfast interview, we allowed the candidate to begin by asking questions, and the interview quickly turned into an organic conversation, during which nearly all of the interview topics we had prepared ended up being discussed. After this, we contacted four references, which served to make us realize that not only were we right in pursuing this candidate, but that we would be incredibly lucky to call this candidate to St. James.

At the open house, we have planned a Q&A session with our pastoral candidate. If you have a question for our pastoral candidate, please submit the question to any committee member by next Sunday.

[Andrea Taylor](#)

[Doug Gerber](#)

[Mark Wanda](#)

[Linda Berner](#)

[Mike Bennett](#)

[Gail Morgan](#)

[Hans Bodine](#)