

Call Committee Underway

With gratitude, prayer, appreciation, and anticipation, we look forward now to the work of our call committee and the process of discernment as they select a candidate for our new pastor. As I read the service of installation of a call committee several things stood out clearly. "It is time for reflection and prayer, a time for self-examination and seeking, a time for expectation and hope." This is a time when we "seek the Lord's guidance through the Holy Scriptures and prayer," and the movement of the Holy Spirit in this process.

We as members pray for the discernment for the committee as they work in this very careful deliberation. We also acknowledge that God will provide "a faithful shepherd to lead the flock." In the prayers, we prayed that God would give us all "a holy patience that trusts in you for our present care, knowing that you will bring our good work to fulfillment in your time."

The call committee will regularly communicate to the council and the congregation regarding its work and progress, but there is another aspect of confidentiality. The call committee is to keep all names confidential until they present the candidate to the church council. So if they are asked they may say they are in the process, but no names or information about the candidate they are considering or where they are from, or anything which might identify them before the appropriate time. So we need to respect this and practice that patience I spoke of earlier.

There is much that we can do during this time to aid in the process: 1) have faith and trust in the Lord, 2) continue to strengthen our ministry, focus on our mission and the 5 guiding principles we affirmed, 3) pray for the call committee as they work hard for us guided by Scripture and the Holy Spirit, 4) participate in any surveys or questionnaires they ask us to do in order to help them develop a profile of the congregation and the shepherd that would be a good match, and 5) continue to practice good stewardship, sharing our time, talents, and finances for the work of the Lord we do here at Hope, as well as support our financial campaign to build up our reserves to support our new leadership.

And back to the prayers at that installation: "All these things we ask, O God, with whatever else we need, in the name of him who is the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen. Pastor Dave