

These notes are a re-cap of two meetings that the call committee has had since the start of 2019

The first meeting was held on Jan. 17th, 2019. Present from the call committee were Linda Mellon, Michael Wicklund, Lesley Flugstad, Svea Smestad, Steve Fitz and Via phone from Florida, Ann Rotto

Staff Present: Pr. Gretchen and the meeting was led by Pr. Laurie Natwick from the NW Synod Office in Moorhead.

There was an initial discussion about the role of the call committee. We then had quite a lengthy discussion about how we (the call committee) had been asked to be on the committee but really felt like there had not been any direction given as to whether there was the necessary funds (budget) to do the work required to source and select a viable candidate for associate pastor for First Lutheran Church. We had concerns that there weren't funds in the budget to hire an associate pastor if we did agree that we had the right candidate. Since the annual meeting was to be held in just a couple of weeks and we would have several new members of the church council we decided that rather than pushing forward we would seek the guidance and direction of the incoming council. Linda Mellon agreed to be the call committee chair and she agreed to set up a meeting with the executive committee so we could seek the direction of our council prior to starting any of the call process. Since Pastor Laurie was there from the NW Synod office, she went over a four-page document - Outline of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod Call Process so we would be familiar with the process if/when we did proceed. We also had a discussion about prior to starting the call process for an associate pastor for First that we could determine the possibility of working with one or more of the other ELCA congregations in Fergus who were also considering calling an associate pastor at this time.

Second Meeting: April 2nd, 2019

Members of the Call Committee present: Linda Mellon, Ann Rotto, Michael Wicklund, Lesley Flugstad and Steve Fitz (since this meeting was at noon on a school day Svea Smestad could not attend) Members of the Executive Committee present: Dick Felstul, Suzanne Demuth, Steve Guttormson Staff Present: Pastor Gretchen, Katrina Johnson

At the start of this meeting we had a recap with the Executive Committee members of our first call committee meeting in January and we relayed our concerns about wanting to be excited about this process and that we needed their direction on the budgetary requirements of starting and completing the whole call process. Dick Felstul led the discussion about the process and his concerns about the lack of budget. We all agreed that there was no use in putting in the work to source/interview etc. the right candidate for First Lutheran, to then "make the call" with only a HOPE that the dollars would come from the congregation. That truly is not the right way to proceed. We had a good discussion about how successful the "Travel with Jesus" series has been through Lent and how for the first time in years there appears to be an "opening" for the five ELCA congregations in Fergus to possibly work together on our common needs. One of the things that was mentioned is how all five congregations have already started working to combine their confirmation classes. (this will eliminate some of the duplication that is currently happening). We had a discussion around the idea of calling a deacon or possibly getting an intern to assist Pastor Gretchen if we lacked the resources for a full-time position. We also talked about the funds that are in our current budget (\$2,000) for "pulpit supply" which could give Pastor Gretchen some much needed help. After much discussion we all agreed that we do not currently have the resources to hire an associate pastor for First and the Call Committee would be disbanded at this time but that it will evolve into a Mutual Ministry Committee which will work to support Pastor Gretchen and to be a conduit for more discussion the other congregations (ELCA) in Fergus. If the full council agrees with this Linda Mellon and Dick Felstul agreed to make a joint announcement to the congregation on the Sunday after Easter (when the bishop is preaching at First) so all can be kept informed.