

May 11, 2017

Fellow Pilgrims,

Greetings and God's Peace to you all. In addition to updates given in the newsletters and during worship, this platform will be another opportunity for the Call Committee to communicate with the congregation. While many details of our work must remain confidential, it is crucial that we keep you informed about our process and our progress as we take this journey together.

While waiting for the compilation of names for consideration, we are brainstorming interview questions and prayerfully reflecting on the skills and qualities we hope to find in our Associate Pastor. The following excerpt from the Saint Paul Area Synod's Call Process Manual about "The Right Question" states it best:

"The foremost question for the Call Committee always is whether this is the person God requires this congregation to have as its pastor. These are the wrong questions to be asking: Will the congregation like this pastor? Will it approve of the Call Committee's choice of candidates? Will people feel good having this pastor around on Sunday morning? Will this person do until a better pastor comes along?" (SPAS Call Process Manual, pg. 31).

More details regarding our timeline will emerge in the coming months based on the synod's communication with us, and we will share as much as we are allowed with you all. The process is so confidential that not even staff members, partners or spouses are allowed to know the names and details of those we are considering and interviewing. We understand of course that there is natural curiosity about such an important change upcoming for our community, therefore we are taking this opportunity to explain that we cannot share much beyond process information until our recommendation for a call is made to the Congregation Council and the congregation.

During 9:30 worship on Sunday, May 21st there will be a Call Committee Affirmation Ritual and we ask for your prayers as we take on this responsibility for the congregation. Please check back periodically to read about our progress. We are honored to serve the congregation in this way.

With gratitude,

Emily Kahnert

On behalf of your 2017 Call Committee (Tim Dykstal and Tim Moore, Co-chairs; Katia McDonough, Secretary; Caleb Drexler-Booth; Emily Kahnert; Pastor Carol Tomer)