

Congregational Voters' Meeting Sunday, March 15

AGENDA

- Opening Prayer
- Call Committee
- Process
- The Work
- Pastor Introduction
- Q&A
- Vote
- Next Steps
- Closing Prayer

CALL COMMITTEE

- Jeff Kamprath – Committee Chair
- Greg Beutel – Circuit Pastor
- Morgan Hamilton – Staff Representative
- Mike Sconce – Board Representative
- Kevin Sheets – Elder Representative
- Kelley Oster – Congregation Representative
- Nick Samuelson - Congregation Representative
- Russell Jones - Congregation Representative
- Josh Anderson - Congregation Representative
- Carol Chandler - Congregation Representative

SENIOR PASTOR CALL PROCESS TIMELINE

- Initial communication and coordination with the LCMS-TX District
- Appoint a Vacancy Pastor and form Senior Pastor Call Committee
- Send Pastoral Profile Survey (PPS) out to the congregation
- Report PPS results to the congregation
- Accept Pastoral Nominations from the congregation
- Send PPS and Congregational Nominations to the LCMS-TX District President (allow 4-8 weeks)
- Receive Call List from the District President and begin interviewing top candidates
- Hold a Voters' Meeting to present one candidate to Congregational members
- Allow 3-6 weeks for consideration; begin preparing for Installation Service if accepted

PASTORAL SURVEY

- Administered and available to members of Peace Lutheran Church in May-June of 2019.
- 246 individuals responded to the survey.
- Characteristics of Peace's next pastor
 - Skilled and energetic in preaching, teaching
 - Skilled in leadership development, effectively relates and supervises other called and contracted workers, and delegates ministry responsibilities to others
 - Talented administrator and able to work with congregational leadership to set a visionary leadership
 - Trained in small group development and leadership
 - Skilled in youth work
- Characteristics of Peace Lutheran Church's, respondents indicated that Peace is:
 - Preference for blended and traditional, with openness for a contemporary worship service to reach the young
 - Prefer communion practice to all who believe and are instructed in what the LCMS believes
 - Strong in its desire for community outreach
 - A strong desire for the pastor to teach an adult Bible Study on Sunday, oversee youth confirmation regularly, and focus on leadership development to delegate teaching responsibility to equipped workers and members

THE WORKS

- Started in May 2019
- Discussed / Reviewed 24 Pastor Profiles
- Met at Church more than 20 times to discuss profiles and phone interviews.
- Encompassed 2 different lists from the district
- When reviewing profiles based upon congregation profile, Jeff phoned Pastor to ensure they wanted to go through the process
- Phone Interviewed 6 pastors
- Discuss process (consistent questions, score, etc.)
- Questions were based around congregation profile
- In person Pastor Interviews (process)
- Schedule / Area overview / met with who, etc..
- Reviewed notes from all who met with Pastor
 - Staff, Board, and Elders
- Call Committee thoughts before deciding on a Call

PASTOR PHIL RESSLER

- Born 1976 in Rockford, IL
- Education
 - Concordia, St Paul 1996
 - MDiv Concordia, St Louis 2000
- Called positions
 - Bethany – Trinity, Waynesboro, VA (7/2000 – 3/2004)
 - Lord of Life, LaFox, IL (4/2004 – 2013)
 - Lutheran Church of Good Shepard, Old Bridge, NJ (2013 – present)
 -
- Service beyond congregation
 - NJ Outreach Council
 - Comfort Dog Ministry
 - Blog with 7000 + followers
 - Published 40 Things to give up for lent and beyond

PHIL'S PROFILE

- Team Builder
- "Empower people to serve, then step out of the way"
- "Unless I am fed myself, I cannot expect God to use me to feed others"
- "I consider my greatest strengths to be Vision Casting" "ability to motivate and inspire people to come together for a common cause - done through the pulpit, writing, video, blogging and social media"
- "I believe I have been effective leveraging media for the good of God's kingdom"
- "God IS the healer"
- Lord of Life Lutheran in Illinois where Phil was Senior Pastor before moving to New Jersey had approx. 700 members when he was there.

DISTRICT PRESIDENT COMMENTS

- Comments to Calling Congregation:
 - Setting / Type of Ministry – Larger church in large metro area
 - Personal skills – Flexible, team builder, encourager, innovation
 - Pastoral skills – Writing, communications, industrious
 - Liturgical Attitude – Flexible
 - Specialized Training / Certifications – Evangelism, Stephen Ministry

OTHER COMMENTS

- Pastor Ressler is an exceptional pastor with many gifts. He is good at fundamental and essential tasks of the pastoral office: preaching, teaching, evangelism, pastoral care. He is especially strong at "thinking out of the box" and at creativity / innovation.
- He is also a writer who has a gift for speaking into the culture in a timely and relevant way - one strong example - back in 2014 Phil authored a Lenten devotional titled "Forty Things to Give up for Lent" things such as anger, impatience, etc. There were so many requests for the devotional that it caused the church's website to crash twice.

THE RESSLER FAMILY

- Married to wife Barbara from Washington D.C.
 - Trained Nurse
- Kids
 - Abigail (14)
 - Twin Boys (9) – Thomas and Jacob



NEXT STEPS

- Allow 3-6 weeks for consideration; begin preparing for Installation Service if accepted