



Pre-Retirement & Pre-Call Meeting Agenda – Trinity, Mission & Shawnee: May 24, 2023
Meeting Location: Mission Campus

I. Introductions; Invocation and Early Evening Prayer (LSB p. 297)

“How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” ~ Isaiah 52:7

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching.” ~ 1 Timothy 5:17

II. Timeline

- A. Planning for retirement celebration (Isaiah 52:7; 1 Timothy 5:17)
- B. Planning for ministry transition (i.e. the vacancy)
- C. Ministry Covenant/Relationship between the congregation and the retiring Pastor
 - In many of these situations, the retiring pastor does not worship with the congregation for an extended period of time. Pastor Mark will work these details out with the next Senior Pastor.
- D. Pastor’s final sermon/Sunday is January 21; final day is January 31, 2024

----- **The vacancy only begins now** -----

III. The Office of the Holy Ministry

- a. John 20:19-23 – The **Institution** of the Office of the Public Ministry
The Augsburg Confession, Article V – *“So that we may obtain this faith, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments was instituted.”*
- b. Romans 10:13-15 (esp. v. 15) – **God’s Sending** and the Divine Call
The Augsburg Confession, Article XIV – *“Our churches teach that no one should publicly teach in the Church, or administer the Sacraments, without a rightly ordered call.”*

IV. Roles of the District President, Circuit Visitor, Vacancy Pastor, and Call Committee

V. The Importance of Following Your District-Approved “Official” Congregational Constitution

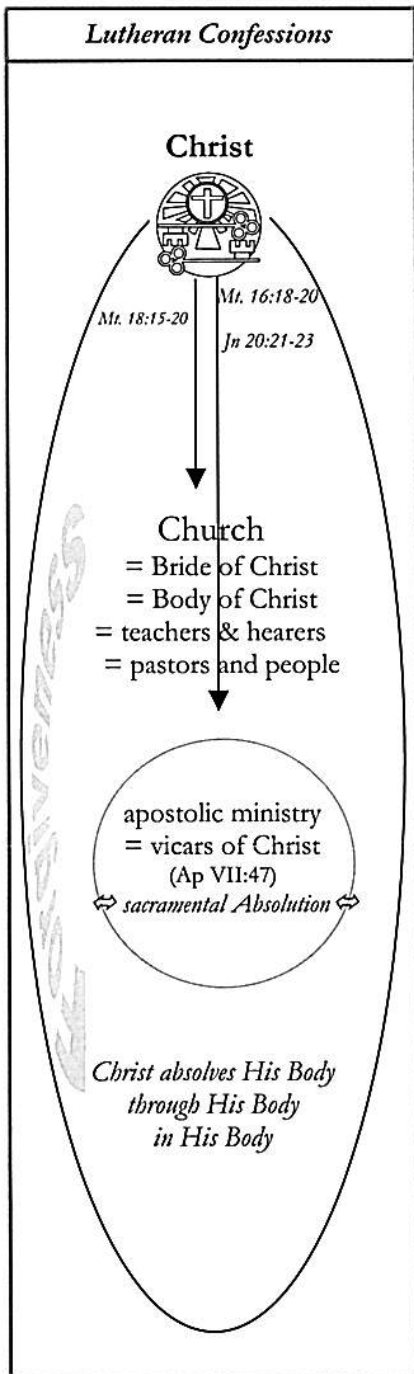
- The Synod requires that congregations operate according to Bylaws that have been approved by the District Board of Directors. Trinity’s governing documents were approved in 2015.
- The Call Committee shall be: the President appoints the Call Committee.

VI. Calling your next Senior Pastor:

- Executive Committee has made the decision to go ahead with the Senior Pastor call process.
- Executive Committee also decided to not call an IIM Pastor, but a called and installed Senior Pastor.
- Pastor Phil and Pastor Luke will be providing counsel to the call committee as it begins its work.

Our mission is to support and encourage the members of the District in carrying out the mission Christ has given His Church.

- Since, their names will be on the call list, and Trinity is engaging in “an open call process,” (i.e. no preferred candidate), Pastor Joel Schultz (CV 3N) will advise the call committee once candidates begin to be evaluated.
- VII. During your time of vacancy
- Senior Pastor ministry description will be evaluated.
 - Partnerships: Philippians 1:3-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
 - Thank you for your partnership with KC Hispanic!
 - Kansas District Partnership website: <https://kslcms.org/missions/partnerships/>
- VIII. The Pre-Call Packet (key documents are available on the district website at <https://kslcms.org/presidents-office/congregation-resources/>)
- ONE congregational Self Study (C-SET)
 - Why? How?
 - Ranking “Pastoral Expectations” (Very helpful to have the top 6 or 7)
 - Calling from the field
 - Nominations
 - A specific window of time
 - A solemn privilege (nominations from *within* the congregation)
 - DO: Use the form. Answer all questions w/your name at the bottom.
 - DON’T: nominate someone less than three years in his current call, or from the circuit, or from the seminary, or your vacancy pastor
 - Other Documents in the Pre-Call Meeting Packet
- IX. Your Circuit Visitor will
- Be present for and assist with each significant meeting of the call committee
 - Be present for and assist with instructions for the actual Call Meeting
 - Give counsel regarding completing the call documents (e.g. benefits)
 - *Please send a copy of the completed call docs to the District Office.*
 - The District Business Manager, Heather Williams, is also available to assist with questions of salary and benefits, especially before the call meeting takes place. We want to make sure we are caring for the church worker and his family.
- X. Next steps
- XI. Q & A; Other – www.kslcms.org (sign up for “Workers Together”); “Like” Kansas District LCMS on FB
- XII. Closing Prayer (Circuit Visitor)



John 20:19-23 – The **Institution** of the Office of the Public Ministry
 “On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.²¹ Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. **As the Father has sent Me, even so I am sending you.**’²² And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.²³ **If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.**”

1. The “Keys” (to forgive and retain sin) were given by Christ to His Church. “Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18; cf. also 16:19 for “keys”)
2. Christ instituted the Office of the Public Ministry of the Keys (John 20).
 Small Catechism: “Q: What do you believe according to these words?
 A: I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command...”
3. The Church exercises the Keys publicly through those whom it places in the Office of the Public Ministry.
4. The disciples were the first occupants of that office; but pastors today are still called to the same Office.
5. The authority by which a pastor ministers is not his own, but Christ’s.
6. The Lord has given the Office of the Public Ministry to His Church. It’s important that a congregation fills that office by calling a pastor. (See AC V on front.)

Romans 10:13-15 – The Importance of God’s Sending

“For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.’¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?¹⁵ And **how are they to preach unless they are sent?** As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!’”

1. God’s sending is a vital aspect of the public ministry. There are numerous examples, in Scripture, of illegitimate prophets and shepherds who spoke, even though they weren’t sent by the Lord (e.g., Jeremiah 23:21; John 10:1-2, 7-10).
“I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.”
2. The call of the congregation is the other side of the coin of God’s sending, viewed from the (seemingly) human side of things.
 i.e., Pastors are sent to a congregation 1) by God, 2) through the divine call of the congregation.
3. The call of the congregation is one element of a “rightly-ordered call” (AC XIV).

4. Because of the important connection between God's sending and the divine call and the public ministry, it's very important to safeguard the integrity of the call process. (See AC XIV on front.)