



June 25, 2008

### About calling a new pastor...

Dear friends in Christ:

With Pastor Dave Lyle's acceptance of a call to South Carolina, the Council has begun calling a new associate pastor. This brings excitement about the future, but also raises questions about our direction.

A Call Committee\* has been formed and is getting ready to interview. Their first responsibility will be to interview two recent seminary graduates and decide whether or not to recommend one of them to the Council. The Council then will decide whether or not to send that recommendation to the congregation.

It is important for us to remember several things as we begin the process of calling a pastor:

- We are working to discern the call of the Holy Spirit, which isn't the same as hiring. The best person for us to call will be the one the Holy Spirit moves us to call. Your prayers are your most important contribution.
- We are looking first at seminarians because there are two excellent candidates available. Seminarians bring the energy and enthusiasm of fresh ideas for ministry in Christ's name. Pastor Lyle was called as a seminarian and has added great value to our programs and ministry.
- The job descriptions of the pastors have been revised by the Council to include responsibility for relating to the work of specific ministry teams. To bring better focus to our programs, their responsibilities will no longer be site-specific. Each site remains important to our congregation as a whole.

The Council is following the staffing plan that was devised by the Transition Team (2003-2005) in response to the desire of the congregation for growth in our youth and music programs. That plan recommends a full-time music director downtown. It was recently modified to include a part-time music director at the North Site.

- Our emphasis is on building strong pastoral, music and youth programs. To achieve that, we must balance our resources and not allow one program to suffer for the sake of others. Therefore, we are moving forward to select directors of music for both sites.

The Council and leaders ask your prayers for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we begin to discern whom it is that God is sending to serve alongside the pastors and people of FELC. God is calling us into the future he has prepared for us in Christ and is helping us gather, grow and give in faithfulness to him!

In Christ,

Handwritten signature of L. George Detweiler in black ink.

L. George Detweiler  
Lead pastor

Handwritten signature of John Zweig in black ink.

John Zweig  
Council president

\* Call Committee members are: Julie Doerfler, Karen Dorn (chairwoman), Ann Erickson, Joann Kayser, Deni Lundwall, Terry Maves, Kurt Swanson and Olivia Truby.

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