



North/ West Lower Michigan Synod

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Call Process: What Happens in the Bishop's Office?

We often are asked, "What happens in the Bishop's office during the Call Process?" When a congregation is in transition between called pastors, they follow a process outlined in The Call Process Manual (see www.mittensynod.org). The Congregational Council is responsible for completing the ELCA's Ministry Site Profile (MSP). This is, just as it says, a profile of the congregation or ministry site which is uniform across our denomination. It asks simple questions, including the demographics of the congregation and community, as well as questions that take more attention, including what the congregation values, and its strengths and weaknesses.

After the Ministry Site Profile is submitted online the Call Committee and the congregation enter a waiting period. Currently in the ELCA the average call process from the time the MSP is submitted to the day of installation is about 18 months. If that seems like a long time, you're not wrong. It is longer than it has been in any recent memory. The reason is a shortage of ELCA pastors. So, please consider this as an invitation for you to think and pray on whom you know that would be a good leader in the church and encourage them to contact the synod office about becoming a pastor in our church.

Meanwhile, these 18 months can be an anxious time in the congregation, especially if you don't know what is happening on your behalf and on behalf of the church. The Bishop's Office springs into action once the MSP is received. After it is reviewed, it is activated in the ELCA database making it available to

inquirers. We also begin to think and pray over who God may be calling as the next pastor of this congregation and potentially preparing to bring to Michigan.

The Bishop's Office is searching for possible matches in the ELCA database. Candidates who are discerning a change in ministry complete a Rostered Leader Profile (RLP) and are available to the bishop and staff for review. Candidates may come from this synod or from anywhere across the ELCA. We may also receive recommendations from the Call Committee.

The names submitted to a Call Committee by the Office of the Bishop will have had a broad screening: they will have a positive recommendation from the appropriate synod office unless otherwise indicated; there will be a broad agreement between the congregation's compensation offer and the leader's needs; the candidates will have expressed a positive interest in the call based on the MSP and other documents provided by the congregation. (See pages 32 and 33 in The Call Process Manual).

Currently in the Mitten, 29 out of 113 congregations are in the transition process. In three years, we have completed 48 call processes. If that seems like a lot, again, you're not wrong! That is a large number of transitions in this territory. We occasionally feel like all we do is call process. Yet we know that our attention is needed in many other places.

The Rev. Craig Alan Satterlee, Bishop, Ph.D.
Pastor Sarah Friesen-Carper

Reformation 500: A Pilgrimage of Remembering

It is with great pleasure and excitement that we invite you to join with us on this pilgrimage of remembering marking the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Come, be part of a 12-day Lutherland and Italy tour as we walk together in the footsteps of Martin Luther and witness sites important to his life as well as the treasured history and culture of Italy.

Come share in this time of prayerful celebration. We are sure you will be pleased with this tour for it is both high in value and low in cost. Our pilgrimage will be a joyful journey designed to highlight our Christian faith, help us appreciate its historical past as well as its art, culture and beauty; truly a time for Remembering our common heritage.

Few Spots Available! Register now: <http://mittensynod.org/news/2017-luther-trip-to-germany-and-rome/>

Praying with Our Honduran Companions

Our Synod has been in joint ministry with the Lutheran Church of Honduras for more than a decade. In gratitude for our partnership, we will be praying for the 12 faith communities in Honduras on October 9, while they are praying for our 113 Synod congregations. We have been invited to pray especially for the healing ministries of Salud Para La Vida (Health for Life) and the continued hope it brings to the poorest of the poor in the most undeserved neighborhoods. As faithful Lutheran Christians serve in areas where frequent violence prevails, in both of our countries, the designated prayer of the day for the Sunday seems more than appropriate: "Keep us (all of us in Michigan and Honduras) safe from the all that may hurt us, that whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do."

Synod Finances as of August 31, 2016

| August | | Year to Date | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Income | | Income | |
| Mission Support | \$ 124,591 | Mission Support | \$ 761,652 |
| All Other Income | \$ 2,631 | All Other Income | \$ 105,697 |
| Total Income | \$ 127,222 | Total Income | \$ 867,349 |
| Expenses | | Expenses | |
| Support to ELCA | \$ 62,295 | Support to ELCA | \$ 380,826 |
| All Other Expenses | \$ 56,029 | All Other Expenses | \$ 477,148 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 118,324 | Total Expenses | \$ 857,974 |
| Plus Net Assets Released | 6,666 | | 22,372 |
| From Restricted funds | | | |
| Balance +/- | + \$ 15,564 | Balance +/- | + \$ 31,747 |

Autumn Leadership Event

Registration is now open for the Autumn Leadership Event! This year's theme is "Spirituality for a Complicated World" and will feature sessions with John Bell, the Wild Goose Resource Group, and the Iona Community. This event is co-sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Synod and the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, and will be held at Zion Lutheran Church in Ann Arbor on October 16-18.

Registration is \$75 per person. Discounted hotel rates are available at the Wyndham Garden Hotel. The cut-off date for room rates is September 16, 2016.

Learn More and Register Now: <http://mittensynod.org/news/register-now-autumn-leadership-event/>

Walking Together An Event for Congregation Leaders

Registration now open! Designed for congregation council members, committee chairpersons, and ministry team leaders, this event introduces and explores seven key principles of congregational renewal. The day will begin with morning prayer and keynote, offer three workshop periods, lunch, and closing eucharist with Bishop Satterlee presiding.

Walking Together will be held on Saturday, November 5 at St. John Lutheran Church in Saginaw, MI. Registration is \$10 and includes lunch.

Learn More and Register Now: <http://mittensynod.org/docs/WalkingTogetherRegistration16.pdf>

Upcoming Events

| September | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| September 22 | Interfaith Amigos | Alpena |
| September 23-24 | Exodus, Covenant, and Wilderness: An ELMM Retreat | Immanuel Lutheran Church, Mt. Pleasant |

| October | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| October 3 | Faith Formation Table Meeting | St. Stephen's, Lansing 10:30am-1pm |
| October 4-6 | LARC Retreat | Augustine Center, Conway |
| October 16-18 | Autumn Leadership Event | Zion Lutheran, Ann Arbor |

For information on these events and more, be sure to read our weekly update emails and visit the events section on our website.

Congregations in Transition

Note: We include congregations on the public list when the called pastor or rostered leader completes her or his ministry in the congregation. Thus, congregations in which the pastor has resigned but is still serving are not listed here. We also do not post calls that are accepted until Bishop Satterlee signs the Letter of Call.

| | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| Bay Conference | Rev. Dan Stoneback, Dean | Kalamazoo Conference | Rev. Kari Fast, Dean |
| Faith/Saginaw | Paul Neuchterlein, Interim/Preparing MSP | St. Peter/Battle Creek | Cheryl Johnson, Stated Supply/Awaiting Candidates |
| Our Savior/Saginaw | Ann Grady (ECUSA), Intentional Interim | Immanuel/Allegan | Paul Kehnle, Stated Supply. Dean Beckwith, Pastoral Care |
| Resurrection/Saginaw | Barbara and Tim Bender, Interim/Preparing MSP | Prince of Peace/Portage | Jim Foster, Interim/ Interviewing |
| Capital Area Conference | Rev. Gary Bunge, Dean | Stony Lake Conference | Rev. Doug Ogden, Dean |
| University/East Lansing | John Schleicher, Interim | Immanuel/Muskegon | Jack Ferra, Interim |
| Greater Grand Rapids Conference | Rev. Julie Schneider- Thomas, Dean | St. Luke/Muskegon | Jack Ferra, Interim |
| Faith/Sidney | Betsy Kamphuis, Administrative Pastor/ Awaiting Candidates | Sunrise Conference | Rev. Chrisy Bright, Dean |
| Immanuel/Big Rapids | Bob Garrels and Jerry Schweitzer, Stated Supply | St. Thomas/Cheboygan | David Heuther, Installation 9/18 |
| Good Shepherd/Holland | Supply Pastors/ Interviewing | Traverse Conference | Rev. Kent Lee, Dean |
| Grace/Hastings | Paul Kuhlman, Intentional Interim | Feast of Victory/Acme | Supply Pastors/ Interviewing |
| Mamrelund/Kent City | Matt Deames, Intentional Interim | Calvary/Elk Rapids | Supply Pastors/Preparing to receive candidates |
| Zion/Woodland | Polly Standley, Intentional Interim | Advent/Lake Ann | Chrysanne Timm, Transitional Pastor/ Forming Call Committee |
| | | Bethany/Northport | Supply Pastors/ Interviewing |
| | | Immanuel/Suttons Bay | Supply Pastors |