

Congregational Assembly for Pastor Call
St Paul Lutheran Church - Ann Arbor, MI
Feb. 4, 2024, at Earhart, 12:05-1:44 pm
140 attendees signed in

St Paul's mission: *Because God shows His love for us in Jesus, the people of St. Paul are a family in Christ, learning together, worshiping, reaching out, and caring.*

Nancy Niemela (Board of Directors Chair) observed that the quorum had been met and called the Senior Pastor call meeting to order
Opening prayer: Rev. Aaron Roggow (Associate Pastor)

Overview of the call committee and their process by John Bates: The Board of Directors originally appointed John Bates (Committee Chair), Travis Grulke, Lauren Warren, Angie Raasch, Dan Meier, Aaron Shinn and Neil Skov for the committee. Laurie Walters replaced Angie Raasch, when she asked to be removed. The board added Amy Rice (Business Manager) as a non-voting member to answer business-related questions.

The call committee started with a list of twenty two suggestions from St Paul members and the Michigan District Office. The list boiled down to two pastors who are willing to consider a call and seem to be good matches for the strengths and qualities identified in the pastor profile that was finalized by the Nov. 29, 2022 Congregational Assembly.

Pastors' details and the vote: John Bates presented information about each pastor, and highlighted some of the gifts and experience that they each possess.

Rev. Dr. Christopher James, Senior Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Downers Grove, IL. MDiv from Concordia Seminary at St Louis. DMin from Northern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Rev. Kurt Klaus, Senior Pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville, MN. MDiv from Concordia Seminary St Louis.

John Bates and the call committee members answered questions from the assembly. Then LCMS circuit visitor, Rev. Bryan Schindel (Senior Pastor at Cross & Resurrection Lutheran Church, Ypsilanti) called for the vote. He led a prayer.

Jeff Klaus (Elder) made a final reminder for all attendees to sign in.

The Elders distributed, collected, and counted the paper ballots.

Zac Lahrman (Elder) reported the number of votes for each pastor. The 2/3 majority required by the constitution had not been met.

The assembly did not take up the offer for more discussion.

>> A second round of secret paper ballot votes was conducted. Rev. Schindel announced the numbers. Rev. James had acquired the necessary majority.

>> Neil Skov (Elder) made a motion to make it a unanimous decision. Rev. Schindel asked for approval and got a resounding verbal response of Ayes.

>> Neil Skov (Elder) made a motion to destroy the ballots. Rev. Schindel asked for approval and got another verbal response of Ayes.

Closing prayer by Rev. Schindel

Minutes respectfully submitted by Bethany Huseman, Recording Secretary