

ST. PHILIP'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2011

10:30 AM MEETING

Purpose of the Meeting: Presentation and Recommendation, by the Call Committee, to Call Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem to be the next Senior Pastor at St. Philip's Lutheran Church.

- One service of worship was held at 9:00AM, followed by Brunch served by the Board of Administration and many helpers.
- Call Committee present: Dick Lekang (chairperson), Becky Becker, Matt Johnson, Dee Blomster, Izack Angerhofer, Val Sperry, Mike Carroll.
- Board of Administration present: Bob Becker, Leif Ronken, Wylie Klawitter, Matt Johnson, Margo Tech, Carol Anderson.

The meeting was called to order by President Bob Becker at 10:30 AM.

Devotions were given by Matt Johnson.

Dick Lekang, chairperson of the Call Committee, gave a brief profile of Pastor Joel. He reviewed the biography and timeline of Pastor Joel's experience including his education, work history and his top 5 areas of expertise.

Dick then made a motion to call Pastor Joe Wight Hoogheem to be the next Senior Pastor at St. Philips. A second was also made and then President Bob Becker called for any questions or comment from the floor.

The following questions were asked:

- 1) Q: Was Pastor Joel on the very first list of candidates that the Call Committee reviewed?

A: No

- 2) Q: Is the spelling of Pastor Joel's name correct?

A: Yes. He and his wife both use their last names but do not hyphenate the name.. so his last name is Wight Hoogheem.

- 3) Q: Because John is such a strong youth Pastor and because Pastor Joel has strength in working with the youth.. will this make a difference?

A: No. Pastor Joel has been called as a Senior Pastor and will work directly with Pastor John.

- 4) Q: Do we need to be concerned that Pastor Joel might say 'no'?

A: No.. Pastor Joel is very excited to come to St. Philip's.

- 5) Q: What about the vision of St. Philip's. (Several people asked about this). Where will he take our congregation? What about all the talk in regard to our changing community, diversity, poverty, aging population? Can he lead us through this?

A: Pastor Joel is very much in line with the ELCA and he won't be taking us off the deep end! He has been part of governance change at his existing church and he has many new ideas and resources for leadership. The Call Committee spent time talking to Pastor Joel about this issue and feels confident that he will work with the community and the church and would have the ability to bring aspects that an older pastor may not...especially with the work he's doing on electronic media and pod sermons. They also felt he was very much in tune to our situation because of questions he asked. He does not have direct experience with this type of community. It was also noted that St. Philip's draws people from many more zip codes than the Fridley zip code. Pastor Joel had many references that indicated he was a pastor beyond his age, very much ready for this challenge.

- 6) Q: Has anyone looked into the cost? How are 'they' (we) going to pay for this?

A: Human Resources and Board of Administration has looked at the cost and they are comfortable going forward. However, it will mean generous contributions from all members. (and the hope that Social Security gets a raise!)

The following Comments were made at the meeting:

- 1) Joel Young, former President of the Congregation, asked the Call Committee to stand and the members gave them a standing ovation for all their diligence and hard work to find St. Philip's a new Senior Pastor.
- 2) Another standing ovation was given to Becky Becker and Joan Kruse (not present) for their work (over 2 years) on the lovely Quilts hanging on the walls in the Fellowship Hall. These quilts represent the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary.

- 3) Acknowledgement to those Call Committee members not present. It was noted that we have the 3 J's for Jesus – Pastor Jan, Pastor John, and now Pastor Joel!
- 4) Our one youth on the Call Committee, Isack Angerhofer, stood up to tell the members of his good experience working with the committee and how he felt Pastor Joel will be a good fit for the youth of this congregation.

At 11:15 AM, Bob Becker called the question to vote on the motion to call Pastor Joel Wight Hoogheem as the next Senior Pastor at St. Philip's Lutheran Church. Ballots were handed out to all voting members and directions to vote either "YES" to accept this motion or "NO" to not accept this motion. Any other information on the ballot would make the ballot invalid. The motion was carried with a vote of 222-YES and 3-NO.

The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Carol Anderson, Board Secretary

