

## CALL COMMITTEE REFLECTION

*Today during worship, the chairpersons of the joint call committee will share information about the call process and guide reflection about this process and God's leading as we discern a newly called shared staff member.*

*Please keep the top portion of this document for your reflection and tear off the bottom and place in the offering plates.*

### PURPOSE STATEMENTS & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

#### **Good Soil Lutheran Ministries Purpose Statement:**

Growing together in Christ to love and serve.

#### Guiding Principles:

1. Encouraging spiritual growth through Christ-centered worship and faith formation
2. Fostering a faith community of love, support, and discipleship
3. Embracing the joyful energy of families and children and supporting them through life's struggles
4. Inviting all people with grace, compassion, and affirmation
5. Following the Holy Spirit by serving and partnering with the wider community
6. Sharing God's abundance with generosity

#### **Bethesda on the Bay Purpose Statement:**

Bethesda on the Bay is growing in community to share the love of Christ.

#### Guiding Principles: In our community we,

1. Welcome all
2. Serve our neighbors
3. Love one another
4. Witness to the gospel of Jesus
5. Spread the light of Christ in the world

Reach out to either chairperson of the Call Committee with questions about the process.

Chris Webner ([Dcwebner@oh.rr.com](mailto:Dcwebner@oh.rr.com)) and Joanne Wancata ([Jwancata@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jwancata@sbcglobal.net))

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What does Christian Formation mean to you?

Why is it important for our congregations to encourage and foster faith formation among the children and families?

What excites you about this discernment process and prospect of calling a shared Rostered Minister?

What are your hopes for with this new shared staff member?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*(If you're willing to share for follow up conversation with the call committee.)*

## **MINISTER OF FAITH FORMATION – JOINT CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Call committee co-chairs JoAnne Wancata (Good Soil) and Chris Webner (Bethesda) presented the following update on the Call process and progress for our shared Minister of Faith Formation at the joint worship service on August 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **How did this come about?**

Both churches recently participated in the "Dandelion Project," a congregational renewal. Each congregation came away with a new Purpose Statement and a list of Guiding Principles that are very similar to each other's, although they were developed independently about a year apart! (They follow this article.)

Both congregations have also observed:

- Changing worship and learning practices for families due to busy schedules and competing activities on Sundays.
- Children needing a better background and understanding of faith and of their own place as members of the faith family.
- Adults of all ages and life stages requesting opportunities to nurture and grow their faith with bible studies, classes, forums and outreach.

Pastors Angela and Marissa were inspired to see our congregations could work together to call and share a Deacon or Associate Pastor to help grow our ministries within Faith Formation. They shared their ideas and inspiration with the respective Church Councils and others within each of our congregations.

The Dandelion Project work, our recent prayerful discussions in support of the calls for Pastors Angela and Marissa and other recent visioning initiatives and focus groups informed the discussions and then the decision to move forward with this process to call a Minister of Christian Formation.

### **The Minister of Christian Formation**

This call is a new undertaking within the Synod, as it combines the unique characteristics of each congregation as well as our shared vision for the Minister of Christian Formation.

- He or she will be a Rostered Leader (a Deacon or Associate Pastor), hold a Masters of Divinity (or equivalent requirement of Rostered Clergy) and be ordained in the ELCA.
  - A rostered candidate will support our congregations' joint vision based on a calling to serve God's will and bring a consistent and current theological background to deepen and grow our ministry.
  - Those applying acknowledge they feel a spiritual connection or call to work together with families, youth and persons at every age in Christian faith formation and growth.
- The Minister of Christian Formation will partner with both congregations in a new vision and mission
  - He or she will work with the full time staff, leaders and congregation members of both Bethesda and Good Soil to deepen and grow the ministry especially within the area of Christian Formation
  - Specific areas of focus include Congregational Life & Worship; Youth, Young Adult and Family Ministries and Outreach

In addition, as a member of a new collaborative ministry team, he or she will share pastoral duties as appropriate. Examples include, preaching, teaching, visitation, and pastoral care.

### **The Call Committee**

The Call Committee with members from both congregations was installed during worship earlier this summer and began monthly (now twice-monthly) meetings after receiving training.

- Christine Webner (Co-Chairperson), Lisa Hanson, Scott Pohlkamp and Lynne Zeidler from Bethesda
- JoAnne Wancata (Co-Chairperson), Amelia Forshey, Evan Paine and Emma Sleva from Good Soil.

The Committee's work is guided and supported by the ELCA Synod Office. They have advised the average call process takes 10 to 12 months.

### **What you can do**

Look for periodic updates during worship and in the e-newsletter. Committee members welcome your questions, suggestions and encouragement. You can email, text or call members during the process – or find us before or after service!

The questions for reflection shared at our August 24<sup>th</sup> service are on the first page of this article. We invite you to reflect on the questions and share your responses with us by 1.) placing the sheet in the offering plate 2.) turning it in to a church office or 3.) emailing your responses to one of the co-chairs.

Please keep the Call Committee in your prayers that God will guide our vision, our work and our decisions.

God's peace to all,  
JoAnne Wancata and Chris Webner