

# **Town Hall Meeting**

## **July 19, 2020**

### **Background**

- **Associate Pastor vacancy since October, 2017**
  - **In the absence of a permanent Senior Pastor, we did not proceed with a call process**
- **Pastor Hengst installed in December, 2018**
  - **Long term planning committee established to identify the various needs of the church**

## **Need/Duties**

- **Administer Word and Sacrament Ministry**
- **Preach and lead services**
- **Conduct funerals and marriages**
- **Ministering to the dying**

7/13/2020

3

## **Options Considered**

- **Associate Pastor or Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP)**
  - **augmenting current position we have, by utilizing an existing staff member**
- **Duties of an SMP align with the role of the Minister of Worship, Care and Discipleship**

7/13/2020

4

## **Description of SMP Program**

How long does it take to complete the program?

**A: The SMP program is designed so it may be completed in four years. As the student studies, the student also serves within a ministry context ... During the first two years the student is an SMP vicar while he completes his first seminary courses. After completing his first two years, he is eligible for a call from his vicarage site and ordination (Our Savior). During the next two years, he takes eight more courses. Throughout all of his course work, he meets regularly with his supervising pastor (Pastor Hengst).**

## **Description of SMP Program**

What is the cost of the program?

**A: Annual costs, depending on the seminary, may range from \$10,000 to \$11,500 a year for tuition, fees, books, travel and housing for the residential seminars, and additional field seminars.**

## **Description of SMP Program**

Are there any restrictions for SMP pastors?

**A: As the name implies, the program is intended to help congregations... for specific ministries .... The SMP graduate is not a “general pastor.” At the outset, a type of ministry is declared and it remains the realm where the SMP pastor is eligible to serve.... The SMP is always under the oversight of a general (non-SMP) pastor (Pastor Hengst), even after his four-year program.**

7

## **Description of SMP Program**

What options exist for SMP students following graduation?

**A: While SMP pastors may simply remain SMP pastors, they may choose to apply their SMP courses toward a Master of Divinity degree. The M.Div. degree must be completed through residential study at an LCMS seminary.**

7/13/2020

8

## **Qualifications For SMP Program**

- **Mature in faith and life**
- **Must not be a recent convert**
  - **Should have experience in the church**
  - **Must be a member of an LCMS church**
  - **with two years of active membership, service, and leadership**

7/13/2020

9

## **Qualifications For SMP Program**

- **Commitment to the Lutheran Confession and Faith**
- **Meet the Spiritual and personal qualifications from 1 Timothy 3:1-7**
- **Education Preparation**
  - **Applicant should have adequate post-secondary and experience to be able to complete the academic program**

7/13/2020

10

## **Qualifications For SMP Program**

**A candidate must have...**

- **a clear sense of identity in Christ**
- **a commitment to service**
- **an ability to lead**
- **an ability to listen to others**
- **an ability to witness to others**

7/13/2020

11

## **Congregational Expectations**

- **Support the student through this process**
- **Pray for the student**
- **Commit to having the student serve in the congregation as Assistant Pastor after they have completed the program**
- **Allow for the student to regularly be away from the office as he completes his education**

7/13/2020

12

## **Process**

- 1. Pastor identifies potential SMP candidate**
- 2. SMP candidate meets with President Woodford for approval to move forward with the process**
- 3. Determine congregational support for the SMP program**