

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Waconia, Minnesota**  
Congregational Meeting Minutes  
April 5, 2010

*Mission: To learn, serve and share the Gospel by growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, one another and those beyond our walls.*

*Vision: We will fulfill our mission through:*

- *Unyielding faith in Jesus Christ*
- *Strong ministries that engage our members*
- *Active participation in our church and greater community*

**Call to Order - John Roebke, Council President**

The April 5, 2010 Congregational Meeting was called to order by President John Roebke at 7:00 pm. Thanks for being here and for making history. We are very pleased to see those who are under 40 here tonight. This is an exciting time. Thanks to all of you and all of your prayers to God during this process.

**Welcome and Prayer - Pastor Dale**

Pastor Dale welcomed all members who attended the meeting and lead all present in a prayer.

**MOTION:** Scott Stole made the motion to move to issue an official letter of call to Travis Steven Gerjets as Associate Pastor of Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church of Waconia. All letters of call are subject to the approval of the Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod. Jim Wright, Sr. - 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**Discussion - Scott Stole**

I would like to express a thank you to all attending tonight's meeting. This attendance is overwhelming for a Monday night. The Call Committee is grateful for all of the support the Congregation has given the Call Committee throughout this process.

The members of the Call Committee were recognized at the meeting.

**Brief Timeline of the Call Process:**

- The Call Committee was established and convened Oct 20, 2009.
- Multiple working sessions were held in November and the Ministry Site Profile was written, approved by Council and submitted to the Synod on December 15, 2009.
- Eleven Candidate Resumes were presented by the Synod to Faith by January 28, 2010.
- Pastor Dale and Scott Stole reviewed and filtered the resumes.
- Five were chosen and interviewed by Pastor Dale.
- The list was filtered again to three candidates, which were interviewed by the Call Committee on February 25, 2010.
- Travis Steven Gerjets was unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed by Pastor Dale and the Call Committee.
- The candidate was recommended to Faith Council on March 9, 2010.

### Guiding Principles of the Process:

- A sincere belief when anyone or any organization honestly appeals to God for guidance, God will listen and will provide.
- Council, congregation, and call committee all asked to pray diligently for discernment and guidance through this process.

### Position Description provided by Pastor Dale:

- Share general Pastoral duties.
- Emphasis on Life, Growth, and Mission
- Emphasis on Faith Formation
- Emphasis on Social Ministry

### Candidate Profile from Call Committee:

- Genuine, personal faith in Jesus Christ
- Preaching/Teaching for all age groups
- Building a sense of community
- Small group ministry
- Connecting to members from youth through elderly
- Creative ideas AND ability to implement them
- Spiritual development of parishioners

### Recommendation: Mr. Travis Gerjets:

- First call Seminarian
- Young person but spiritually mature
- Evident and obvious “genuine” faith in Jesus Christ
- Intellectual, deep thinker, continuous learner
- Excellent preacher - easy to follow, easy to remember, challenging to the listener
- Warm and inviting personality
- Slightly non-conventional, but in a positive way which will help him to connect with all age groups.
- Very Mission focused and experienced - both internally and externally
- Creative ideas for ministry, with desire to drive their implementation
- Strongly endorsed by Bishop Peter Rogness and Pastor Gregg Helland (Travis’s Pastor during youth)
- Endorsed by Pastor Dale as a good fit with Faith’s staff
- Currently doing interim work in Marshall with his wife Brandy, who is also looking for her first call.
- Unanimously, enthusiastically, and unreservedly recommended by the Call Committee!!

Travis and Brandy have also prayed for guidance over the past few months in their call acceptance. They are completely on board in joining Faith Lutheran Church and love Waconia.

### Discussion - Pastor Dale

A long time colleague, Pastor Kay Evenson, highly recommended Travis for our Associate Pastor position. Of the eleven resumes received, five were interviewed, but Travis stood as the

clear choice for our congregation. He is a person who appeals and relates well to people of all ages. We are fortunate in having Mary Toufar as a gifted and experienced Youth Director on staff. This allows The Associate Pastor to cover the Life Growth and Mission and Social Outreach Ministries. Not as much time will be needed in the Faith Formation Ministry as was needed in the past. Travis's mission is to minister to those people who may have been turned off to church and works to get them to come back.

**Questions:**

Q: How many candidates did the Call Committee interview?

A: 3 candidates. Pastor Dale interviewed 5 candidates. The Call Committee had specific questions that they asked each candidate.

Comment by Call Committee Member: The Call Committee was well prepared to go back to the Synod for more Candidates if the committee was not satisfied with candidates they had interviewed. The goal was to obtain the best candidate for Faith Lutheran Church no matter how long it took.

Q: If this is a positive vote - what is our timeframe?

A: We are looking at a May 1<sup>st</sup> start date.

Q: What concerns did you (Call Committee) have about Travis?

A: The Call Committee had a slight preconception that a Pastor serving their first congregation would be too green. After a couple of minutes with Travis, this preconception was dispelled. We initially were looking for someone more seasoned. Brandy is also looking for her first call, which she received by the church they are serving at as Interim Pastors in Marshall. They were so taken by Faith Lutheran and the town of Waconia that they were eager to accept this call. At first impression, Travis looks very young but he is very mature.

Q: Will they move and live in Waconia?

A: Yes they will settle in Waconia and Brandy will look for a call near Waconia.

Q: How did Travis get on our list?

A: After Pastor Dale spoke with Pastor Kay Evenson, who recommended Travis, he requested that Travis's name be put on the list. There are three ways in which someone can have their name put on the list of possible candidates. The person can request to be on the list, the Synod will make recommendations, and someone from the congregation can request names be put on the list of candidates.

Q: Does the call imply or include a probationary period?

A: No, the Letter of Call has a start date but it is open ended. There is a standard process for anyone deemed in a counseling position. The Synod initiated the 148 process, which is a background check, of recommended candidates. The background check for Travis came back clear from the Synod.

Q: Are we giving them any stipend for moving expenses?

A: This was not part of the approved budget for 2010. They live in an apartment so a couple of

vans or Jim Wrights trailer should suffice. In our contract we put moving expense “negotiable”.

Q: Is he ordained?

A: He is not ordained. Until he is ordained, he will be a Synod authorized Pastor. This will give him permission to administer sacraments at Faith Lutheran. He will probably plan ordination to be at his home church in Lakeville.

Q: Where did he get his education?

A: St. John’s University in Collegeville.

Q: Does he have a solid Lutheran Theology.

A: Yes and there is a good story behind that answer. Travis was a football player and went to St. John’s to play football. He was injured and couldn’t play. The Monks at St. John’s saw great potential in Travis and hoped he may consider becoming a Monk. Travis contacted the Pastor from his youth, Pastor Gregg Helland and asked if he would do some bible study with him to help him answer his questions about his faith. In this process he learned that deep down he is a Christian Lutheran to the core.

**VOTE:**

No further questions were asked - the vote was made with paper ballots, required by our Constitution, to call a Pastor. Current Council members counted the ballots. The outcome of the vote was 151 members voted YES to the recommendation to call Travis Gerjets. 0 - NO votes. It was unanimous. All approved. Motion carried. (The quorum needed to pass the vote is 64 confirmed, contributing members.)

Motion: Pastor Dale made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Dave Nyman - 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

We closed the meeting by saying the Lord’s Prayer.

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