

Mount Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Meeting – Minutes
September 25th, 2011

Presiding: Dave Heldman

Secretary: Margaret Tupling

Dave Heldman opened the meeting by reading Mount Zion's Mission Statement. He explained how discussion would be handled. Ginny Ehrlich will bring a portable microphone to anyone wanting to raise an item of discussion so all will be able to hear.

Motion: Read by Tim Ehrlich. "A new term call be extended to Pastor Krister and that such call be made for a term of three years."

Seconded by Coralee Jyrkama.

Discussion: Charlie Ernst – asked why the term is for three years

Dave Heldman – We were unable to evaluate the success of the co-pastor model. Another three years will allow for this and give us the ability to change if we want to.

Anne Woolner – Both pastors should be treated equally.

Amendment: A new call be extended to Pastor Krister with tenure.

Seconded: Ann Crossman.

Discussion: Ed Riegert voiced support for the amendment. He has been inspired by Pastor Krister's ministry and his constant spirit and courage. In 2008 we decided on a co-pastor model. We made a mistake by calling Pastor Krister for only a three year term. We need to be true to the model and have both pastors on equal ground.

Tim Ehrlich called for a point of order saying we are discussing the amendment to the original motion at this time.

Richard Crossman: Supported the amendment. In the history of the church, Pastor Tanya was given a three year term call when she was right out of seminary. When this term was finished (probationary period) she was given a full call. Pastor Krister's probationary period is finished so he should be given a full call. Richard has some difficulty giving a three year call to a pastor with over twenty years experience in the first place.

Jim Miller: We should deal with the first motion before the amendment.

Richard Crossman: It is correct procedure to deal with the amendment first.

Ginny Ehrlich: Asked if there is any difference financially or if in the future we decide we want only one pastor if we accept the original motion or the amendment.

Dave Heldman: Responded that there is no difference.

Pastor Tanya: Provided clarification. If a pastor has tenure the church can ask the pastor to leave but the pastor can choose to stay. She said this was unlikely but could happen.

Gerry Roeder: Announced we had a quorum.

Ed Riegert: Stated he was uneasy with the business like meeting. God calls people to serve and “term call and tenure” cuts God out. We are the people of God.

If we call a pastor it doesn't mean we are stuck with the pastor or that they are stuck with us.

Loa Zilles: Asked what the rationale was behind the original motion.

Dave Heldman: We have been unable to evaluate the co-pastor model. We hope to be able to do this in the next three years.

Tim Ehrlich: This motion gives the congregation a chance to reconsider.

Charlie Ernst: We have always had associate pastors.

Anne Woolner: The pastors are two different people with different strengths. They will figure out how to work effectively together and we will all benefit.

Richard Crossman: asked that Dave call the vote on the amendment.

The amendment was read. Jim Widdecome said the amendment removed “for a term of three years and was replaced with tenure.

Amendment: A new call be extended to Pastor Krister and that such call be made with tenure.

Vote on Amendment: Carried

Discussion: No further discussion.

Dave Heldman called the question. Ballots were distributed. If yes is written you accept extending Pastor Krister a call with tenure. If no is written you don't want to extend a call.

Vote: 97 attended the meeting
9 Proxy votes

104 votes
4 spoiled ballots
100 valid ballots

for a 2/3 majority 68 YES votes were needed

97 Yes votes cast.

The amendment to the original motion passed and Pastor Krister will be offered a call with tenure.

Tim Ehrlich: Moved that the ballots be destroyed.
Seconded by Richard Crossman.

Dave Heldman thanked Mutual Ministry and Church Council. He thanked everyone for taking the time to come and vote on this important issue.

Dave closed the meeting with Hymn 660, Lift High the Cross.