

Council Update

It has been an eventful 12 months. Within the span of a year, we said goodbye to our beloved pastor of 24 years, weathered a global pandemic, closed (then opened, then reclosed) our doors for the safety of our congregation, had two wonderful interim pastors who helped us to stay the course, and approved a new pastor to lead us into our next chapter.

We are pleased to announce that Kimberly Cooper has been called as our new pastor! Although she has not been ordained, we are in talks with the Bishop's office to secure a date in March. Kimberly will begin on February 1st while moving into the parsonage with one of her daughters. The rest of the family will follow on February 14th. Pastor Bernie will be staying with us through February to help with the transition.

I know there are so many questions as to how the process unfolded through the months. Although we did provide regular updates, I think it's important to give you a proper timeline as to the actions that took place to get us where we are today.

After Pastor Mountenay announced his retirement, Council began discussing the process of saying goodbye while also reaching out to the Bishop for guidance in the Call Process.

April 14 - Council's first meeting with the Bishop We discussed completing our congregational MSP (Ministry Site Profile), which is a breakdown of our church, its members, our mission, and our hopes for the future.

May 15 - The congregational survey is distributed We allowed everyone to voice their opinions on what was important to St. Timothy's, which gave us a more complete picture of our church.

May 20 - The Call Committee is selected These members are Robin Koegel, Charlie Purcel, Craig Beyer, Art DeRose, Hannah Wantula, and Fallon King, Chairperson. Based on the instructions given to us by the ELCA and the Bishop, these 6 members were chosen based on their varying backgrounds and experiences they have within the church.

July 13 - Call completes the MSP

July 19 - The MSP is approved by Council and submitted to the Bishop's office

August 13 - The References are submitted The MSP required we receive reviews from people outside our congregations. We asked Pastor Wendy Abrahamson and Rabbi Randy Mark to submit them.

September 17 - Call Committee meets with Bishop Bartholomew We discussed the process in-depth, including interviewing a candidate when one became available. We also received word that Pastor Maristela Freiberg, assistant to the Bishop, will be our contact and guide through the process.

October 14 - Finance meets with Pastor Maristela to discuss compensation guidelines

October 19 - Kimberly Cooper becomes available as a candidate for our congregations Churches are only allowed to interview one candidate at a time per ELCA protocols. If the congregation does not approve the candidate, the person is “released” from that relationship and may be contacted by another church.

October 27 - Call Committee meets with Pastor Maristela to discuss the candidate

November 12 - First Call Committee interview with Kimberly

December 1 - Second Call Committee interview with Kimberly

December 2 - Call Committee recommends Kimberly to Council

December 14 - Council interview with Kimberly Council recommends Kimberly to the congregation

January 6 - Finance meets with Kimberly to discuss the compensation package

January 16 - Town Hall Meeting

January 17 - Kimberly leads Worship Congregational Call Meeting/Vote

First and foremost, I want to thank the Lord for being the source of our strength. It has not always been easy, but I have not felt lost or alone, and that is a true blessing.

A heartfelt thanks to Hannah Wantula, our previous Council President. She was a great leader and without her, this process would not have run so smoothly.

Thank you to Pastor Maristela and Bishop Bartholomew for providing us with the guidance we needed through this process.

Thanks to Pastor Julie Haspel for holding down the fort, so to speak, while we searched for a more permanent interim pastor.

Big thanks to Pastor Bernie (Pastor Bernd Weishaupt) for your continued faith in us and for helping us see our potential. And your sweat equity will always be appreciated.

Thank you, Kimberly Cooper, for your honesty and willingness to work with us as we move forward. We are very excited!

I want to thank all the council members, past and present, for being hard-working and committed to the mission of St. Timothy's.

Thank you to the Call Committee, whose work in the interview process gave us the insight we needed to get to know Kimberly.

And thank you, all of our beloved congregants. We are the St. Timothy family and I am blessed to have you all in my life.

Blessings to you all, Fallon Goskowski, St. Timothy Council President