

September 4, 2020

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ,

Like all other aspects to life in the year 2020, the activities of the Executive Pastor Call Committee have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. While our work has moved forward, we praise God for technological gifts like cell phones, video conferencing, and email. South Wisconsin District President Rev. Dr. John Wille has also guided our actions using these tools.

We have now reached an appropriate milestone in this process to provide the congregation with an update on our activities.

On June 15th, pastoral nominations were due from members of the congregation. The members of DRLC nominated 8 pastors from around the country. Toward the end of June, these nominations were submitted to President Wille, along with information regarding the organization and ministries of our congregation. President Wille then reviewed these nominations for eligibility based on his assessment and that of the other district presidents within whose districts candidates currently serve.

He then added other candidates from throughout the synod to compile a slate of 18 candidates. His nominations were identified as men capable of fulfilling the responsibilities of the position description, and whose ministry skills and preferences match Divine Redeemer's needs and worship styles. This slate of candidates was received by the call committee at the end of July and was circulated among the call committee on August 4th.

On August 18th, the committee met via video conference to conduct a preliminary review of each candidate. During this meeting, candidates were assessed by the committee members against the job description and ministry needs of Divine Redeemer. The committee agreed to begin communications with at least five candidates assessed highly against these criteria. These initial candidates have now been reached, and all have agreed to participate in our call process.

Our committee will now develop an interview process to be followed deliberately among all the candidates. We will communicate our progress again once these first interviews are completed.

It is important to note, the call committee members agreed that all candidate's names would be kept confidential through the early phases of the call process to guard against biases from within the committee and from the congregation. But rest assured, as soon as finalists names become appropriate to be shared with the whole congregation, we will do so.

Although all members of our congregation are anxious to learn how this process is progressing, it is important to note that the Divine Call process must be conducted prayerfully and deliberately. Perhaps it sometimes progresses at a slower pace than many would like. But God has blessed us with adequate time within which to conduct this process.

As always, questions can be directed to the call committee by using the email address:
call.committee@drlc.org

In our Lord's service,

Divine Redeemer Executive Pastor Call Committee

Brian Kramer, Chair

Gary Peppel, Board of Directors

John Uttech, Committee of Lay Elders

Beth Hynes

Chris Irish

Janet Bahr, School Principal, and ex-officio member of the call committee