

Commissioning & Installation of the Call Committee for a Minister of Word & Sacrament

Following the sharing of the Peace, the Cantor and the Deacon of the Synod gather the Call Committee near the baptismal font.

Beloved in Christ, God has called us to a new time in the life of First English Evangelical Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas.

Our transition ministry began in January of 2023. Last fall, council leaders formed a transition team.

This has been a time for reflection and prayer, a time for examination and seeking, a time for expectation and hope.

We seek to call a pastor of word and sacrament to lead and serve with us among God's people.

On June 17th the following persons were duly appointed by the Congregation Council to serve as the Call Committee of this congregation community.

As I name them, I ask them to join us by the baptismal font, in this room and online:

Tim Atkinson

Randy Baden

Allen Jensen

Nikki Northcutt

Lillian Martinez-Rodriguez

Barbara Schutz

Erin McCracken

Dear friends,

God's love is faithful and endures forever. Sacred scripture guides you in your task, to seek a pastor who strives for peace and justice, faith and love, endurance and gentleness -- a pastor who is a servant as Christ was a servant -- a pastor who leads with us with care for all of God's people -- a pastor who is filled with the Holy Spirit -- a trustworthy steward of the mysteries of God.

Yours is a spiritual endeavor on behalf of this whole congregation community.

The Deacon, facing the Call Committee, asks questions of service and commitment.

Members of the Call Committee, I ask you these questions of service and commitment on behalf of the church:

Are you willing to be open to the Spirit's leading, and, by prayer and holy conversation,

undertake this calling to seek a pastor for this congregation?

If so, say, "yes, with the help of God."

Yes, with the help of God.

Will you be diligent in your seeking, careful in your listening, purposeful in your questioning, and respectful in all that you do?

If so, say, "yes, with the help of God."

Yes, with the help of God.

Will you seek God's guidance through Holy Scripture, prayer, and in your deliberations with your fellow committee members, until you are brought to one mind and one will in Christ and have chosen a pastor to offer this congregation?

If so, say, "yes, with the help of God."

Yes, with the help of God.

Erin, with care and diligence, will you gather this Call Committee in the work before you?

If so, say, "yes, with the help of God."

Yes, with the help of God.

The Cantor leads the assembly in prayer.

Let us pray for those who are being installed today and for this congregation community.

Gracious God, thank you for your love which never ends.

You have raised up faithful servants of your word and sacraments to tend your flock in each time and place.

Send us a pastor to comfort and care for us, to preach your word, to teach all of us, to baptize and commune, to officiate at celebrations of life, to give counsel to us, to visit the sick, to advocate for the marginalized, to lay us to our final rest, and to challenge us, guide us, and pray for us. Keep us faithful in mission, regular in worship, responsible in stewardship of creation and your gifts, mindful of those in need, and diligent in prayer. Fill us all with your Holy Spirit and magnify our gifts of discernment, that we might follow your will that leads to your future. Commission these who serve on our Call Committee. Give them the gifts they need to seek and find the pastor of your nurturing, the pastor of your choosing, as we are fed by your word and sacraments and grow in faith and love and witness. We ask all these things, O God, with whatever else we need, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Call Committee faces the Deacon, who announces:

I now declare you commissioned and installed as the Call Committee of First English Lutheran Church,

in the name of the Father, and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

May God bring your good work to fulfillment and grace in Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

The Cantor leads the Call Committee and assembly in prayer:

Let us pray the prayer of courage on page 13 of your bulletin:

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths untrodden, through things unknown.

Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.