

Congregational Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2024

Call to Order

President of the Governing Board, Steve Junge, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm. Approximately 36 members were in attendance.

Opening Prayer

Sr. Pastor Ben Johnson opened with a prayer.

Approval of December 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Brenda Plagge made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 2023 congregational meeting. Faith Sparks seconded. The motion passed.

Senior Pastor's Report

Pastor Ben spoke about how we got to this Call Process. We don't need to call a pastor at this moment as we are covered with Pastor Tim, in addition to Pastor Joe staying part-time. However, the Call Process takes time to complete and we didn't want to transition a new pastor during the busy holiday season or mid-school year for someone with children. If we start the call process now, the transition potentially lands in a better time.

Pastor Ben asked us to think about what we want GDLC to look like down the road as we enter the Call Process. He spoke with staff on what they envision and it was in alignment with what Pastor Ben had been thinking.

1. Second-call individual - not their first assignment as a pastor.
2. Driven man, collaborative, thinks outside the box but works with Directors while giving honor to God. Teach and preach contemporary and traditional. Ability to connect, personable. Tone of discipleship and care. Teamwork focus while appreciating individuality.
3. Mid-late 20's, early 30's with potentially a young family to continue the vision with other young families. Identifies with those people with whom he'll connect: youth, children, young adults: working with the staff in those areas. Envisioned lane of pastor: young adults, young professionals, college age, young families. Work closely with Tim Kightlinger and Mike Martens.
4. Assist with weddings and baptisms to help Pastor Ben's load.
5. Will work closely with Sr Pastor. Pastor Ben spoke of his experience as an associate pastor as well as his family members who are church workers, giving him insight and a certain perspective going forward.

Pastor Ben and Steve described next steps:

- Congregational nominations: All GDLC members eligible to nominate. Contact person before nominating and send nomination in an email to Board President Steve Junge or Sr Pastor Ben Johnson.
- Iowa District West will give us a list of potential candidates. There will also be outside networking of other districts.
- The Governing Board will notify the congregation of Call MAT members which will consist of 2 Board and 5 congregation members.

Questions from congregation:

Is there a good pool of candidates? Seminary numbers are down and there are a lot of pastors retiring. There are pastors that would appreciate this position at GDLC.

Is there a large number of pastoral openings in IDW? Not so many that we are in competition.

Vote:

1. Enter into Call Process for Associate Pastor:
2. Allow Governing Board to form MAT:

Results of Voting (in-person and absentee):

Enter into Call Process: 333 YES / 6 NO

Call MAT Formation: 340 YES / 2 NO

Closing Prayer

Steve led the Lord's prayer in closing.

Adjournment

The congregation meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm by Governing Board President Steve Junge.

Respectfully submitted by Wendy Kropf

Not Approved