

Call Committee Report to VLC Annual General Meeting - February 21, 2023

Summary of VLC Call Committee Activity 2022

March 15, 2022 - email from Dean of Western Canadian District advising VLC that he had spoken to a pastor who expressed interest in putting his name forward to our congregation.

March 17, 2022 - Pastoral Profile of David Hanes received from NALC for VLC consideration

March 18, 2022 - Updated NALC Vacancy List received:

“As you can see there are 62 vacancies listed, and there are approximately 8-10 pastors who are actively seeking a new call. That being said, all Lutheran pastors are available for call under the direction of the Holy Spirit.”

March 22, 2022 - Call committee meeting to discuss the received Pastoral Profile. Decision made to organize an interview with the candidate via Zoom.

April 5, 2022 - Candidate (David Hanes) interview held through Zoom.

April 18, 2022 - Call Committee meeting to debrief the Candidate interview. Committee members had both positive reactions and a few concerns ... concerns mainly with the pastor's age and health concerns.

April 19, 2022 - Phone conversation with the candidate. After consideration, he had decided he would not be available for a call to our congregation.

April 30, 2022 - Conversation with our outgoing Dean of the Canadian Mission District at the NALC Convocation. Mac de Waal wanted to encourage us and let us know that he had recently been in conversation with two additional pastors who had expressed some interest in the Valhalla pastorate.

Note: I believe there are 29 NALC churches in the Western Canadian District and around 40 pastors. Many of the pastors and NALC leaders attend the yearly Convocation and the Theological Conference. Because of the relatively small numbers, it's easy to get to know many of these folks by attending these functions. If we're known, as a congregation, especially a congregation that is active in the NALC, it will probably speed the process of finding a pastor within the NALC.

July 23, 2022 - Profile of Pastor Samuel Kim received for consideration of pastoral vacancy at Valhalla Lutheran.

August 3, 2022 - Interview with Pastor Kim

September 11, 2022 - Pastor Kim and wife at VLC to conduct a communion service and meet some of the congregation

Call Committee Meeting September 19, 2022 - re Pastor Kim

- Debriefed service with Pastor Kim and reviewed feedback from the congregation
- Committee voted against recommending Pastor Kim for a call

November 7, 2022 - Emailed Kevin Ree at Council's request to inquire as to his openness to considering a call to Valhalla

- Kevin not available for a call
- However, when at VLC for a communion service, Kevin met with the Call Committee. His recommendation was for the committee to proactively research and seek NALC Pastors who were actively serving congregations at present and who were not actively seeking a call. This in recognition that the proscribed NALC call process was producing few call candidates, VLC'S vacancy has become regrettably long, and the Call Committee is looking for ways to speed up the search for our Pastor.

November 28, 2022 - Call committee received communication about the possibility of searching outside of NALC for qualified Pastors. (Bardo Lutheran Church in Tofield recently called an evangelical Pastor who had been trained in an Anglican seminary).

*Note: the committee is aware of this possibility and in fact had taken this approach in the past. Pastors from outside of NALC, may be called, but must be vetted and qualified through the NALC before they can be rostered. More followup on this route may be warranted.

Call Committee Meeting January 27, 2023

VLC Video - Members reviewed our promotional video that is on NALC's website. Is an update needed?

- master copy of video is no longer available; to update we would need to build a new video
- after discussion it was agreed that the video remains current and applicable and does not require an update at this time

Congregation Profile - discussion item: does our congregation profile on NALC's website need updating?

- Suggested that it may be helpful if VLC Council reviews our pastor compensation package to make sure it remains adequate, and to familiarize council/call committee members with its details
- Steve will check online profile and work to make any needed updates

1. Call Process - discussion held re alternative steps the committee could take to speed up call.

- To date the committee has restricted its search to pastor profiles received through NALC (NALC's recommended procedure). Few profiles are received, so far, none suitable.

- Discussion with Pastor K. Rees resulted in a recommendation that we investigate and seek to identify prospective call candidates directly ... ie. pastors who are not actively seeking a call through NALC's process.
 - Committee members reviewed currently active NALC pastors in the Western Canadian District and identified some prospects. It was agreed that it would be best to first look into NALC pastors who we know, who have served as pulpit supply in VLC.
2. It was agreed that the Committee should communicate with Pastor Shelly Schultz, (NALC Call Process Coordinator), prior to beginning this approach, to see NALC's response to our proposal to contact actively serving NALC pastors who have not sent their profiles to us through the call process.

January 29, 2023 - Committee chair emailed to Pastor Shelly Schultz (NALC Call Process Coordinator) cc to Pastor Charles Jackson (Dean Western Canadian Mission District)

- Inquiry into NALC's view of churches calling Pastors who are not actively seeking a call.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Mumert,
Call Committee Chair