

April 2024

Dear Bethel Family ~

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! "Every morning is Easter morning from now on...!"

As we celebrate being the Resurrected Christ Jesus' Easter people, your Call Committee wants to share information with anyone who was not able to hear our update during weekend worship services prior to Easter. The following highlights summarize our status since January, and include an opportunity for everyone to assist in the search process:

✚ The committee has connected with 3 pastors so far. They are each in an active call. So, for confidentiality, we do not share their information. After initial conversations with two of the three, it was clear they were not the person God is calling to serve with us at Bethel. We are awaiting a conversation with the third, and praying that opportunity will happen now that we're through the busy Lenten Season and Easter weekend.

✚ All along, we've continued in our Bible studies, which have led us in many Spirit-filled discussions! As a result, we fine-tuned the list of the "Top 5 Things" we hope for in our next pastor, because it is important for us to more clearly share with prospective pastoral candidates what God has shown to be the biblical leadership priorities for our congregation.

✚ Those "Top 5" qualities were recently updated in our [Congregational Profile](#). It was reposted on the NALC website as well as on the Call Committee section of Bethel's website (under the "Ministries" tab on our Home Page). Just as in February, we were again included in the monthly letter sent to all NALC rostered pastors at the beginning of March.

The profile also includes a summary paragraph, which appears on the NALC congregation vacancy list. That summary is the first thing a potential pastor will read about us if that vacancy list is where s/he looks for ministry call opportunities. We encourage you to view our updated [profile](#) and share it with anyone else who might be interested. We never know how God plans to expand our search network, and engage in meaningful conversations that might lead to His selection for us!

✚ We can also consider any pastors that you think might be good for us to hear about. So, while you review the profile, we also encourage you to share with us names of pastors you think we should pray about. We can talk to anyone, even if they are not rostered with the NALC. But any pastor we call must be NALC vetted and certified before we can consider a call with him/her. We're simply looking for ways to engage in as many conversations as possible, trusting God will lead us on the path He intends us to follow!

✚ At the same time, we've been discussing how we might help potential pastors (as well as community members searching for a loving Christian congregation) to see a better picture of who we are, if they search for us on the internet. We're aware that "live" videos captured during events can more effectively highlight glimpses of our lives when we're together. So, with Council's support, we are encouraging anyone in the congregation to pitch in by making SHORT videos (approximately 30 seconds) - like many do for posting to social media - and send them to our Council President, Jim Herr, for future editing. Show the fun things we are doing; ask one person what s/he loves about Bethel; etc. Be creative! And also, be cautious in capturing videos of minor children or anyone who does not wish to be recorded. Videos can be texted to: (317) 439-0911

✚ We continue to meet for Bible study, discuss our next steps, and pray for God's guidance in the process. Therefore, we ask for patience and supporting prayers from the entire Bethel family. Remember always that God is doing the calling, and the Holy Spirit is preparing both us and our future senior pastor.

Blessed to serve with you,
Kristen Wells

on behalf of the
Bethel Call Committee

Tanya Clary
Mark Heckman
Tom Hooper
Steve Horton
Tom McGrail
Susan Tobison
Jamie Wilkinson