



*Messiah*  
CHURCH

WHERE LIFE & PURPOSE CONNECT



# Messiah Church Town Hall Meeting

October 3, 2021

Servant Steering Team

# Two Key Words to Know

**ITINERACY** – ordained elders and Licensed Local Pastor make a commitment to go and serve wherever the bishop sends them. That means they submit to the authority of the bishop. They cannot search for a church or be approached by a church. The authority rests with the bishop. That means they have a guaranteed appointment (never had to look for a job) – but **not** a guaranteed location.

**CONNECTIONAL** – all United Methodists Churches in Minnesota are connected for ministry and mission through the annual conference. The Annual Conference is the basic unit of the church. It means Messiah Church is guaranteed pastoral leadership (and doesn't go looking for it) and there will be a seamless transition so that there is no day without pastoral leadership.



# Typical Appointment Process

- A pastor leaves a current appointment requiring a new appointment to be made.
- The SST updates their church profile and meets with their district superintendent to share the missional needs of their congregation.
- The district superintendent presents the church profile to the Cabinet.
- The Cabinet prays about the missional gifts and graces of the church and the gifts and graces of the pastors that might serve this church.



# Typical Appointment Process

- The Cabinet, through prayer and discernment, selects a pastor to be appointed to the church.
- The district superintendent meets with the pastor to share the missional needs of the church and why the Cabinet believes them to be the best candidate.
- The pastor prays about the decision of the Cabinet, and either affirms the Bishop's intent or asks for reconsideration.



# Typical Appointment Process

- Once the pastor affirms the intended appointment, a time is set for the SST and pastor to meet.
- An introductory meeting is held with the new pastor and SST. At the conclusion of the meeting, the pastor and the SST each have the opportunity to affirm the Bishop's intent to appoint this pastor to this congregation or to ask for reconsideration. Requests for reconsideration must be put in writing and must be for missional reasons only.



# Typical Appointment Process

- If both parties affirm the Bishop's intent, a salary package is recommended by the district superintendent and agreed upon by the pastor and SST.
- The appointment is then announced in both churches on the following Sunday, with a letter sent to each congregation either immediately before or after the announcement.



# Typical Appointment Process

- As this process states, the SST does not choose, nor do they have a vote on who the next lead pastor is at Messiah Church.
- Unless there is a missional reason to reject a candidate pastor, SST has to affirm him/her. There is no way for the SST to determine missional concerns during the introductory meeting.







Thank You!