

On behalf of the Call Committee, I want to share some observations and give you an update on our progress:

When Council announced that it would form the Call Committee, some of you may have thought that the Council would “round up the usual suspects” as Renault did in the movie “Casablanca,” to form the committee. When the committee member’s names were announced, I told my family that I could not pick the other members out of police line-up, except, maybe, for Bob Tobbe (not that Bob is regularly in police line-ups), but we have served together often. We spent 7 hours together over two consecutive evenings, learning about the call process and each other. And you know what? I think that we like each other, value each other and may I say trust each other. Lara, Bob, Ed, Beth, Suresh, Stacie, Caitlin and I represent 7 consecutive decades of life, except for the 30 somethings. We are evenly divided between men and women. All three services are represented by committee members. We are new members and old. If you think that the Altar Guild or the choir secretly runs this congregation, I appear to be the only token representative of either group. We ask lots of questions and search for answers. We are independent thinkers, and we will let no person or committee tell us whom we should select. We are committed to the task given to us and are unanimous in the bright future of this congregation and the need for a special person to lead us in it. I am very impressed with the Call Committee and you should be, too. In the next week or so, a picture of the group and short bios will be posted on the bulletin board in the hallway and a Call Committee page to be created on the All Saints website.

On the night of our orientation a month ago the Call Committee received multiple names and we are in the process of conducting interviews. We have been acting with lightening speed recently, but I suspect that pace will slow to a more normal one. If you are interested in the whole process, you will see an abbreviated version on the bulletin board and soon on the Committee's page on the All Saint's website. If you would like to see more detail on the process the Southern Ohio Synod has published a very good guide called "A Guide to the Call Process," which is posted on the Synod's website and will also be posted on ours.

Transparency is a fashionable buzzword these days. As we search for our lead pastor, the Call Committee is not as open as a political convention or as closed as a Papal Conclave. We will be transparent as necessary, but much of our work must remain confidential. We all must respect the need for confidentiality of the candidates, the candidate's existing congregation and for the Committee to talk honestly and to hear each other without the interference or influence of those outside of the Committee. Even in the Transfiguration of our Lord when God identified Jesus as, using Call Committee lingo, the "primary candidate", Jesus told Peter, James and John to keep it confidential and "tell no one" until later. We will do the same.

So please pray for us every day especially those days when you won't know that we need it the most.

Thank you.

Tom Counts

Chairman, Call Committee