

Weekly Update from the Call Committee

"And the effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever."
Isaiah 32:17 (ESV)

Hopefully you've had the chance to read the announcement that was sent out on Tuesday, October 10, stating which pastors made the final Call list (Pastor Morris and Pastor Hengst.) Additionally, the Divine Call Voters' Assembly has been postponed until Sunday, October 29. We feel it's important to provide some insight to explain how we arrived at these decisions, to hopefully maintain your trust in the process (which God controls) and in our discernment towards understanding His plan and timeline.

Regarding the Call process and final Call list: As previously mentioned, we were blessed with receiving 26 nominations (24 from members, and 2 from the District.) To help us discern the final Call list, we established a plan to conduct a series of questions and interviews (via Skype and in-person.) Below please find a summary of that plan and how we were led by the Holy Spirit throughout this process:

EVENT	RESULT
Questionnaire	Sent to all 26 Candidates, Received 14 completed responses - Call Committee selected 9 men (unanimously) for first interview
1st Interview	9 men Interviewed (via Skype) - Call Committee unanimously led to remove 4
2nd Interview	5 men Interviewed (via Skype) - Call Committee unanimously led to remove 1
Final Interview	4 men invited (Pastoral Candidate Visit) - 3 men Interviewed (4th removed himself after prayer) - Call Committee unanimously led to remove 1 candidate
Call List	2 men sent forward as the final Senior Pastor candidates for member discernment and decision at Divine Call Voters' Assembly on Sunday, October 29

Prior to this final interview round, and through much discussion and prayerful consideration of all 26 candidates, we were led to the three candidates who visited FOC on Sundays, September 17, September 24, and October 1. This final interview round was designed to help us further discern which man was being sent by God to be FOC's Senior Pastor (the Divine Call.) We truly had no idea how this round would go but prayed that God would make His plan known to all of us during these visits in terms where the Holy Spirit would lead us next. God answered our prayers but not in quite the way we planned!

Nevertheless, we know that His hand remains very much in this process, as shown by the many interactions and experiences with leadership and members that led us to send Pastor Morris and Pastor Hengst forward in the final Call list. As has been the case throughout this process, this was a **unanimous** decision by the Call Committee (consisting of a group of eight Jesus-loving, humble, prayerful members of FOC.)

Out of respect for all these amazing men of God, we have not (and will not) share the details on where or how the Holy Spirit led us to remove them from the final Call list. They are doing wonderful work in God's name, and we will not do or say anything that could even possibly impact their ministry in a negative manner. Additionally, new relationships were formed with these men during this process (God put them in our paths for a reason, of which the Senior Pastor position for one man may only be one reason.) As such, we remain open to whatever plan God has for us if/when our paths cross again and humbly request you do the same.

Regarding postponing the Divine Call Voter's Assembly: God controls the process and timeline, and throughout this process, we have always looked to Him for guidance on when and how to move forward. That said, we admittedly (in hindsight) found ourselves in front of God by committing to a Voters' Assembly on Sunday, October 15, as the date for this critical meeting. This commitment was announced to the congregation prior to Pastor Timm's visit (to comply with the two-week notice requirement stated in the FOC Constitution and By-Laws.) Had we waited to schedule and announce this meeting until after Pastor Timm's visit, God would have made it clear when and how to move forward (He clearly had more to show us during this last visit.) We apologize for this mistake, and we understand the consequences of this mistake from a timeline and emotional perspective. We could not, in good faith, accept the consequences of sending a candidate forward that we (as a Call Committee) know is not the Divine Call based on the information God shared during that visit. The only reason Pastor Timm did not make it to the final Call list is that the Holy Spirit provided the clarity we needed (although not in the way we expected) to focus our attention on the final two men as we approach this meeting on Sunday, October 29.

Back to Isaiah 32:17: Through humility and prayer we humbly correct the mistake made in the timeline for the meeting but know we are much closer to discerning the Divine Call. ***"The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever."*** God is good!