



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Re: Call to Rev. Nathan Huse

**March 3, 2020
7:30 p.m.
St. John's Sanctuary**

President Chris Victoria thanked everyone for being here this evening. It is a great opportunity for us to gather together to see what the Lord will do. He read from Luke 12, "to whom much is given, much is required." That passage is appropriate for us at St. John's. The Church is blessed with talent from the staff and our congregation. Now, it is up to us to learn how to use those talents wisely.

He called the meeting to order and announced that the meeting was called in accordance with the Bylaws, with notice given for the past two weeks. He introduced himself as President of the congregation and stated that it is his honor and privilege to serve and be a part of St. John's. He is excited about this evening and the reason for the meeting, to Call a Pastor and partner with Peace Lutheran Church. The support of the congregation enables us to guide and work alongside of a church like this. We are blessed by the generosity of the congregation. "To whom much is given, much is required."

He invited Pastor Tim Klinkenberg to begin the meeting with prayer and a devotion.

Opening Devotion and Prayer

Pastor Tim stated that one of honors and privileges he has is to serve with so many wonderful people, our staff and our leaders. He offered an opening prayer.

He wondered how many meetings our congregation had when Pastor Kogler, our founding Pastor, talked about planting churches after St. John's was founded. Zion in Anaheim was founded by a brother of Pastor Kogler. Then St. John's went on to found St. Paul's Orange, Peace Tustin, Salem in Orange. Churches we planted went on to plant other churches. Some of the churches are facing difficulties and we believe we should be fighting for one another. Peace Tustin had a large school and, over the course of time, closed the school and members left. St. John's is not planting churches now, but we have the opportunity to revitalize one. That is what we must do at Peace.

As people of God were sent out of Samaria and Judea and across the earth, they carried the message of the Gospel and the devotion and impact that the Christians had in their neighborhoods and communities. It is hard to fault them because of the impact they had and the love they shared. This is a picture of the early Church, as recorded in Acts 2:42, about all of the believers coming together, praising God and enjoying the favor of all of the people. The Lord added to their numbers daily.

We are involved in something new. We are not doing it for glory, but we are doing what He has outlined in His Word. To share, to love, to encourage and be devoted to one another and hold onto the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a good night to do this. It is a good night to reach out in love to one another in the congregation and see what God has for us. He concluded with prayer.

The President thanked Pastor Tim for the devotion. He commented that we are fortunate to have an excellent Pastoral staff, Pastor Tim, Pastor Michael Hayes, Pastor Trevor Van Blarcom. They reflect a very healthy church.

Invitation to Sign Constitution

The President invited all confirmed members, over the age of 18, who have not yet signed the Constitution, to come forward and sign in order to be able to participate in the issues to be presented at the meeting this evening.

Minutes

Minutes of the Congregational Assembly of May 21, 2019, were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes of this meeting and an oral vote reflected that the Minutes were approved.

Peace Lutheran Church, Tustin

1. Background – How This Came About, Partnership

Chris reviewed the discussions and meetings between Peace and St. John's after their Pastor departed. Pastor Michael Hayes preached at several services for the past few months, as did Pastor Trevor Van Blarcom and Pastor Mark Siegert. Pastor Michael discussed his involvement with the leaders at Peace. He met with them, provided care for some of their elderly members, and worked with them in making some decisions. PSD President Michael Gibson suggested the concept of sharing a Pastor, half time at St. John's and half time at Peace. He suggested both congregations interview Pastor Nathan Huse, currently serving at Gethsemane in Tempe, Arizona, who will be moving to Orange County because of a job transfer for his wife. In February, Pastor Huse visited both churches, preached at Peace, attended three services at St. John's and met with leaders of both congregations. Peace Lutheran has previously held a Congregational Assembly at which they voted unanimously to extend a Call to Pastor Huse.

2. Financial Support – Lori Shackelford

Lori discussed the funds from which the salary for Pastor Huse would be paid. The Trustees are proposing that the salary be funded 25% from the Operations Budget and 75% from our Missions account, which is very well funded, since our agreement with Peace is viewed as a mission. Peace would be responsible for a percentage of Pastor Huse's salary, which could be 40% to 50%, reimbursement to us.

3. Church Goals

Pastor Tim Klinkenberg discussed the importance of churches working together, to support each other and ensure continued growth. The worship attendance at Peace has been declining in recent years, especially following the departure of their Pastor last year. The school closed and the facility has been rented by the Blind School, which is a supplement to their income. As we did with Grace Lutheran Church in Corona several years ago, which continues to have a great Preschool on that campus, we would like to help and support Peace in this partnership. When churches thrive and grow, we are building the kingdom for the Lord. He commented that he is excited about the partnership with Grace and for the future of that congregation. The Call to Pastor Huse would be an opportunity to create a partnership between our two congregations, where we would have the prospect of supporting, encouraging and helping to build the church. St. John's would be the Calling Church, and St. John's would deploy Pastor Huse to Peace.

4. Open Discussion for Nathan Huse

Chris invited questions from the congregation regarding a Call to Pastor Nathan Huse, to serve both St. John's and Peace Tustin. Both he, Pastor Michael and Pastor Tim responded to the questions.

5. Motion to Call Pastor Huse as Associate Pastor

On behalf of the Trustees, Chris made a **"motion to extend a Call to Rev. Nathan Huse, to serve as Associate Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church.** The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded and approved.

Closing Comments

Pastor Tim asked Pastor Mike, who has been so instrumental in this process and building our relationship with Peace, to offer the closing prayer. Pastor Mike prayed and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. The President thanked everyone for attending.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Willett,
Recording Secretary