

Abiding Savior Lutheran Church
Special Congregational Meeting
May 4th, 2025

Call to Order: Congregational President Dawson Blanck called the meeting to order at 11:18 am

Opening Prayer: Pastor Ryan led the congregation in an opening prayer.

Meeting Purpose: Ellen Zimmerman co-chair of the Call Committee stated the purpose of the meeting is to vote on extending a Letter of Call to the recommended candidate for Associate Pastor. She introduced the members of the call committee: Sandy LaCroix, Ellie Wolter Neumann, Brea Schultes, Megan Sangren and Dawson Blanck. Kathie Anderson was not able to be in attendance.

Call process overview: Ellen Zimmerman gave an overview of the call process.

Introduction of the Candidate for Associate Pastor: Sandy LaCroix introduced the Candidate - Kaitlyn Hendrickson. It will be her first call and she will be ordained in June.

ASLC Call Committee remarks: Ellie shared that she was excited about Kaitlyn's passion for young families. Brea shared that she was looking at educational opportunities Kaitlyn will help provide and her energy. She said she was an engaging person. Megan shared that she appreciated the intentionality of the candidate. She said she was very approachable. Dawson shared that her areas of expertise fit the needs of Abiding Savior; youth and family ministry and heart for pastoral care.

A video was shown in which the candidate introduced herself.

Motion: Sandy made a motion to extend a Letter of Call to Kaitlyn Hendrickson to serve as Associate Pastor of Abiding Savior Lutheran Church in a three-quarter time capacity.

2025 Budget Overview: Ben Schabel, Council Treasurer gave information regarding the budget and the fact that the call from a ½ time position to a ¾ pastoral position will fit into the current budget. He shared that we followed Synod guidelines regarding the salary package Abiding Savior is offering the candidate.

Congregational Discussion and Questions & Answers:

- It was asked if the candidate identified needs she has as she is new and young so we are not sure what she needs help with as she begins her call. Ellen answered that she was told to not be afraid to ask for help. Brea shared that they talked about ways the congregation can teach/coach her and that she will be offered support in this call.

- A member asked how the candidate fits into the current roles i.e., Sunday school and confirmation. She is confident in leading confirmation and has written a curriculum.
- It was asked if her hiring changes the roles of other staff and how the $\frac{3}{4}$ time affected her. Ryan said she will most likely be here Tuesday-Thursday and Sundays. She would like to be full time but is accepting this position. At this time there will be no changes to other staff.
- A member wanted to know about benefits for a $\frac{3}{4}$ role, and is concerned about our budget. Dawson stated what the 2025 budget has been set to provide for this position.
- It was asked if the candidate has a heart for the Lord and this is more than just a job to her. Ellen answered that it was obvious to her that Kaitlyn has a heart for the Lord. Brea shared that as she shared her journey it was very evident that she has a heart for the Lord. Megan shared that the committee felt this is the right fit for Abiding Savior.
- It was asked how this will affect our current minister of children ministry. There are no changes at this time.
- A member inquired about her not being ordained. It was clarified that one is not ordained until they receive their first call. She will be ordained in June.

Vote: Dawson asked the congregation to vote and written ballots were handed out and collected.

Announcement of Vote results: 126 yes, 1 nay

Next Steps: Dawson shared that her Ordination will be on Sunday June 1st at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul. We are still working on an official start date but it will be sometime between June 2-June 16.

- Maxine Smedhammer thanked the Call Committee for their dedication to finding this candidate.

Closing Prayer: Dawson led the congregation in a closing prayer.

Adjournment: Matt Schwartz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Tonya Cox. Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Maren Hawkins
Council Secretary