***What’s next?***

**The Call Process**

**of the**

**Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod**

You have a partner in the Bishop’s Office guiding you through a call process in which the Holy Spirit works.

**Recognizing that adjustments will be made to your congregation's process, here is what you can expect in this time of transition:**

1. The bishop, with your council's approval, may appoint an **transition pastor** to serve with you. This pastor might be a designated pastor or an interim pastor.

2. Your **council** will establish a contract with the transition pastor and will negotiate responsibilities and compensation.

3. A variety of gatherings will occur during the transition. Representatives of the bishop **will address** questions, **listen** to ideas about ministry, **describe** the process in more detail and **gather** information

4. A **call committee** will be established according to the guidelines of your constitution.

5. The associate of the bishop assigned to your mission district will provide **orientation** to your call committee.

6. The council and call committee will write a **Ministry Site** **Profile** (a description of your congregation and the qualities you are looking for in a pastor).

7. The call committee will receive the **Rostered Minister Profile** of potential candidate(s)**.**

8. The call committee **will enter an interview process** with the candidate(s).

9. The call committee will **keep you informed** of the progress of its work. The specifics of the potential candidate(s) are all confidential at this point.

10. After the call committee discerns a **primary candidate,** the committee and the candidate will meet with the council**.**

11. The council through its officers and the call committee chairperson will prepare **a letter of compensation and benefits** for the candidate.

12. The council will vote to **recommend the candidate** (with at least a 2/3 majority) to the congregation.

13. Members of the congregation will be given the opportunity to **meet the candidate.**

14. There will be a **special congregational meeting** to formally vote on the candidate.

15. If a congregation votes "yes" (with a minimum 2/3 majority), a **letter of call** is signed and forwarded to the bishop and sent to the pastor.

16. The **candidate has 30 days** to consider the call. If the candidate accepts the call, an **installation** date is set. If the candidate declines the call, the call committee goes back to work with the associate and synod bishop.

***Through the whole process, your prayers are essential.***

***Pray that the Holy Spirit guide you, your call committee, your council and your synod in discerning whom God is calling to serve as your next pastor.***

**Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod**

God's Work. Our Hands.

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