

QUESTIONS A CANDIDATE MIGHT LIKE TO ASK A PROSPECTIVE CONGREGATION

This list of issues, actions and questions is suggested as an outline of areas of concern for the leader to discuss with the Call Committee and/or the Congregation Council. In these encounters, the leader should be honest, assertive, but also clearly caring and friendly.

1. Has the congregation kept its constitution up-to-date? If not, what are the plans for updating it?
2. What is the financial situation of the congregation? Current expense? Mission Support?
3. Describe the unity and responsiveness of the congregation?
4. Describe the possibilities for the congregation to grow in size or faithfulness?
5. Describe your Christian education program. What curriculum material are used? How are teachers recruited and trained? What translation of the Bible is used?
6. Describe the congregation's liturgical practices and ministry of music.
7. Does the congregation normally have voting members at the assemblies of synod and the conference? If not, why not?
8. What is the role of the laity in the assemblies of synod and the conference?
9. How is the pastor's or other rostered leader's leadership accepted by the congregation?
10. What is the congregation's view/practice of fund raisers/commercialism in the church?
11. In what type of activities are the auxiliary organizations involved?
12. Describe the congregation's global perspective.
13. What is the attitude of the congregation toward the rostered leader's participation in community affairs and in the work of the synod and ELCA?
14. What is the congregation's attitude toward the ELCA and Lower Susquehanna Synod?
15. How does your congregation relate to Lutheran institutions and agencies in the area; congregations of other denominations; other Lutheran congregations?
16. What are the evangelism and stewardship programs of the congregation? Describe the congregation's every-member-visitation.
17. What do you see as the strengths of this congregation?
18. What does this congregation do best?
19. What new programs have begun here in the last three to five years?
20. If you could change one thing, what would it be?
21. What major goals did you as a congregation set for this year? How are they going?
22. Is the neighborhood around the church growing? Static? Declining?
23. What does the congregation expect of the leader's spouse? Children?
24. What are the schools like here?
25. What kinds of cultural and entertainment opportunities are available?
26. What opportunities are there nearby for continuing professional education?
27. Why has your attendance/membership declined/increased over the last few years? (This question is exemplary of some subjective questions that are appropriate.)
28. What primary roles are expected of the pastor or other rostered leader? What skills should the pastor or other rostered leader have?