

Your support, encouragement and input are crucial as the Immanuel call committee begins its work to discern candidates for the call to be Immanuel's pastor.

Please [click here](#) to download the brief "Our New Leader Needs To Be Able To ..." survey. The survey, which takes only 1-2 minutes to complete, asks your opinion about characteristics and skills that will be important for Immanuel's next pastor. Return your completed copy to the basket on the narthex table outside the sanctuary, or place it in the call committee mail slot in the church office by Sunday, Sept. 13.

Also join members of the call committee during either or both of the following events to discuss what's most important to you about Immanuel's ministry:

- **Theology on Tap, 7-9 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 27, KC Bier Company, 310 West 79th Street, Kansas City, MO, 64114. Enjoy**

snacks, refreshments and a lively, facilitated conversation.

- **Adult Forum, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 20, Spong Common Room.** Call committee members will request your input through a series of questions about our common mission.

A third opportunity for conversation will be scheduled soon.

As we begin the call process together, here are a few questions and answers about the call committee and its work. Please share your thoughts, prayers and questions with any member of the committee at any time.

Q: Exactly what are the duties of the call committee?

A: On behalf of the congregation, and with the support of the Central States Synod and Pastor Kerr, the committee members will:

*Listen faithfully and search diligently for the person whom God has chosen to shepherd our congregation in the coming years.

*Engage in prayer and conversation, always seeking to do God's will rather than their own.

*Pray for our community of faith and listen carefully to the people of God at Immanuel as we strive together to discern God's will in the call process.

*Work with you in a spirit of joyful anticipation as we look forward to a new partnership in the gospel.

The call committee will **not** attempt to fix, improve or become a "savior" of the ministry we share. As Pastor Kerr succinctly points out, we Christians already are blessed with a Savior. We need no other.

Q: How much time will it take for the call committee to complete its work?

A: Although the committee will work and discern with energy, the process will take time.

Experience suggests that completing the Ministry Site Profile — a lengthy document that describes Immanuel, its ministries and its pastoral needs as defined by the congregation — will take a few months. The congregation contributes to the site profile through surveys and conversations. After the profile is completed and submitted, it must be reviewed and approved by Immanuel's congregation council and our synod's area call minister.

Next, the synod office posts the completed Ministry Site Profile online for viewing by potential pastoral candidates. Candidates contact the synod office to express interest; they

do not contact the call committee or anyone else at Immanuel.

Pastor Keith Hohly, the Central States Synod bishop's assistant, reviews the profiles of all interested candidates, a process that could take several months. During that time, the call committee will compile information about Kansas City (neighborhoods, schools, etc.) that will be of interest to candidates.

Following his discernment period, Pastor Hohly provides the call committee with a group of candidate names and profile information. The committee will interview all candidates whose names are supplied by the synod, and will schedule additional interviews with candidates discerned to be a good match for Immanuel.

The committee submits the name of one final candidate to the congregation council; the

Immanuel call committee members have decided that their support of a candidate must be unanimous before they make a recommendation to council. If the council accepts the recommendation, the candidate is invited to Immanuel to meet the council and the congregation. Finally, the congregation votes about whether to call the candidate.

If the committee discerns that candidates submitted by the synod are not good matches for Immanuel or if a preferred candidate withdraws, the process begins all over again.

Q: Can members of the congregation submit names of pastoral candidates for consideration?

A: Yes. After the Ministry Site Profile has been approved and posted, any Immanuel member will have the opportunity to complete a Candidate Referral Form — stay

tuned for more information about that when the time arrives. All names submitted by the congregation will be forwarded to the synod office for consideration.

Q: How often will we hear from the call committee about its progress?

A: The congregation will receive updates from the committee at least once a month through Parish News and ImmanuelKC.org. And any member of the congregation is welcome to ask questions at any time.

Q: Are there confidential matters that the call committee will not be able to share with the congregation?

A: Yes. The committee is required to keep the names of and any information about potential pastoral candidates absolutely confidential. Only information about the final candidate can be disclosed at the appropriate time.

