

Letter of Recommendation - Final Candidate

From: St. Paul's Call Committee

Date: 10/18/2023

Dear Fellow Members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church:

The St. Paul's Call Committee is extremely excited to announce that we have a final candidate who was presented to the council on Thursday 10/19/2023. Due to confidentiality, we are unable to share the name of the candidate with you at this time. We do, however, want to share with you the reasons why we are excited about this candidate and the gifts the candidate will bring to our congregation.

This candidate has guided her current congregation back from low attendance and insufficient funds to a vibrant growing church. With over twenty-three years serving as a Pastor, she has experience in helping a congregation mend from conflict and is full of fresh ideas. In our second interview, the candidate was able to problem solve with us regarding an issue with service teams and constitutional procedure. She is an excellent listener with a collaborative leadership style, is spirit lead, and seeks to create a permission giving environment where leaders feel free to take risks, ask for help, and make mistakes.

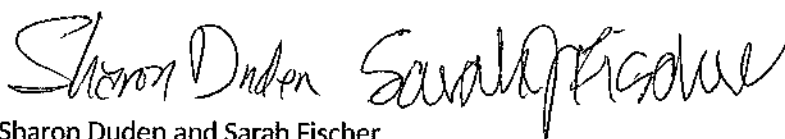
Her demeanor and energy are warm, genuine, welcoming, and she laughs very easily. She asked the call committee what WE value most about St. Paul's and was genuinely interested in each of our answers. She feels joy about receiving a call from St. Paul's which is a sign of the Holy Spirit at work. Throughout our interview process and meeting with her she showed a genuine enthusiasm in getting to know us personally, as well as learning about our congregation. We are excited to see this translate into deep relationships within the congregation.

This candidate has experience working collaboratively with other ELCA churches. She currently leads an RIC congregation. Her desire is to connect us with each other and with our community of Red Wing. She is THRILLED with the opportunities our PHARM property offers and requested to see the space on a tour of Red Wing, even getting out of the car IN THE RAIN to take a closer look! She is familiar with the Red Wing area, loves the natural beauty, the outdoor experiences it offers, and the smaller "hometown" feeling.

The committee was very impressed with her interest in young people. In her current call she has successfully engaged with children and youth by involving them in worship, providing a children's sermon, teaching confirmation classes, and attending high school events to show support. In general, she lets the children and youth know that they belong and have a place in the Church!

We will be able to share even more information during our Congregational meeting on Sunday 11/5/2023, as we vote to call this pastor.

Sincerely,



Sharon Duden and Sarah Fischer

Co-Chairs of the Call Committee