Dear Brothers and Sisters at FELC,

Congregational Survey #2: First English Lutheran Church, 2021 During the month of October, 2021, the members of FELC were asked to complete a questionnaire indicating their hopes and dreams when looking for a new pastor. On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), we looked at six different areas of pastoral ministry. We considered what approaches to Worship, Witness, Learning, Service and Support we wanted the new pastor to follow. Finally we looked at the pastor, him or herself. The following is a summary of the top and bottom three responses. The top three responses are actually four. The highest expectation was actually tied between two questions: 9.1 Worship: Leadership: Plan and preside confidently at worship 9.1 Pastor: Able to confidently point to Christ amid all the competing voices in the congregation and beyond. The Second response was also tied! 8.9 Witness: In Daily Life: Able to see the presence of Christ in the pastor’s daily life. 8.9 Learning Teaching: Able to teach Catechism/Confirmation classes, Sunday School and other organizations and groups in the church. Worship Leadership and teaching are traditional expectations of every pastor. Seeing Christ in the pastor’s daily life amid all the competing voices in a congregation, while, of course, an expectation of every pastor, to see this so highly rated is a sign of conflict in the past. The lowest three expectations are again four. 5.6 Worship: Chanting: Able to sing the liturgy well 6.4 Worship: Use of Audio Visuals: Able to effectively incorporate pictures, videos, music as part of the worship experience. 7.2 Worship: Innovation: Willing to try new and different worship language, music, forms. 4 7.2 Worship: Short Clear Sermons: Able to present the clear gospel lesson in fifteen minutes or less. Note that the lowest four expectations are all in the Worship category. Chanting is the usual lowest expectation of most every congregation. At 5.6, we are saying that we take it or leave it. While audio visuals are appreciated, these worship aids should call attention to themselves. There is a genuine interest in trying different worship forms and a preference for shorter sermons. Looking at the six areas of pastoral leadership, averaging the individual questions for each area, we said our highest expectation is for our new pastor (Pastor: 8.7). Service came in second (8.5), tied with Learning (8.5). Witness was close behind (8.4). Worship was a distant last (7.3). Placing our expectations for the Pastor first can be a reflection of having had good pastors in the past, or it can also reflect the opposite. Service coming in second is saying we want the new pastor to be involved in the daily ministry of the congregation. It may seem odd for Worship to be rated as our last concern. I suspect that what this is saying, however, is that we are pretty well satisfied with our worship and other needs are more pressing. Interestingly, the congregation rated Support: Administration: at only 7.9, saying that some administrative work is okay, but it shouldn’t be a major focus. This was the lowest rated question in the Support group. The irony is, and I can say this now after nearly a year with you, that administration is a needed and major function of the FELC pastor. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill out the two surveys as we prepare for the work of the Call Committee. That committee will be elected in January at our annual meeting, and will need the results of our two surveys as they prayerfully begin the pastoral search process.

Blessings to all at FELC! Pr Tim+