

## Horizon Team Summary for the St Andrew Congregation Council, Transition Team and Call Committee

In January 2022, the Horizon Team was charged with the following objective from Council:

Our Vision for Ministry 2022 focuses on what we will be about as a church in this coming year. The Horizon Team will lead the people of St. Andrew in discerning what lies on the horizon as we look to 2023 and beyond. We are emerging from a pandemic. We hope to have the mortgage paid off in 2023. As we move into the future, St. Andrew and the church as a whole face significant challenges such as the ecological crisis, deep political divisions, and systemic racism. New pastoral leadership will be needed. A new generation of lay leaders will need to emerge. In some sense the church is always in a time of transition.

The Council appointed six leaders—Scott Anderson, Larry Bliesner, Pat Christiansen, Bobbie Larson, Barton Robison, and LuAnn Staul—with Pastor Terry Moe to serve as an advisor/guide for the Horizon Team. This team was later joined by three additional leaders – Beth Johnson, Sovathana Ly, and Scott Taylor. Barton Robison withdrew from the team to serve as Congregation President.

With the guidance of Pastor Moe the team engaged in reflection on scripture, prayer and read together *How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going* by Susan Beaumont. Beaumont's book provided useful guidance about the differences between listening and discernment: "Ruth Haley Barton defines discernment as an ever-increasing capacity to 'see' the work of God in the midst of the human situation, so that we can align ourselves with whatever God is doing. Discernment is a quality of attentiveness to God that, over time, develops our sense of God's heart and purpose in the moment. In communal discernment, we move beyond the personal to see what God is up to within the collective whole... "It isn't easy. Discernment doesn't happen on demand, and most leaders prefer the familiar and predictable practices of decision-making debate, and parliamentary procedure over the unfamiliar disciplines associated with sacred listening. It's not that they don't trust God to speak; they simply don't trust themselves to hear." The Horizon Team recommends that the Transition Team and Call Committee consider also reading this helpful resource.

Documentation of the Horizon Team's process and outcomes are contained in the following documents:

1. Report to the Council 06\_05\_22
  - 📄 Recommendations to the Council following May 15<sup>th</sup> Listening Event
2. Word Clouds
  - 📄 Concepts and comments that were voiced at the May 15<sup>th</sup> Listening Event
3. Horizon Phase 2 Report
  - 📄 Discernment Process which led to the Shared Vision
4. Prayers of the People
  - 📄 The prayers offered by Congregation members that participated in the

Horizon Discernment Circle meetings

5. Horizon Discernment Circle

- A visual that illustrates the relationship of that concepts that came from the Horizon Discernment Circle meeting

6. St. Andrew Member Intentions

- Written intentions of Congregation members that participated in the Reformation Sunday Horizon Discernment Event

7. Pastor Moe's letter

- Letter from Pastor Moe to the Congregation and Council at the conclusion of the Horizon Process

### Ongoing Work

The listening and discernment work of the Horizon team primarily involved congregation members. Time and resources limited our ability to reach further into the community. Opportunities for this might include Mindful Walks for the community and connecting to community members currently using the St. Andrew building space, e.g., Tai Chi, Yoga, Bridge Group, Immigrant Story, Scouts.

The work of the Horizon Team has created a foundation that will facilitate the Call process and support St. Andrew into the future. What we learned together as a team is the importance of the discernment process, taking time to hear the spirit and engaging the community in listening and relationship. As we as a congregation go forward, it is important to continue to focus on the discernment process, building relationships, and identifying emerging leaders that are open to the work of the Spirit.

It seems good to the Holy Spirit and to us.

The Horizon Team is grateful to the St. Andrew Council and Congregation for your support.

Scott Anderson, Larry Bliesner, Pat Christiansen, Beth Johnson, Bobbie Larson, Sovathana Ly, LuAnn Staul, Scott Taylor, and our guide Pastor Terry Moe