

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY CALLED MEETING

JOHN CALVIN PRESBYTERY'S VISION STATEMENT

Joyful, holy community of Christian believers, diverse yet united.

Committed to serving Christ in the church and in the world.

Prepared by God through the Holy Spirit for mission and ministry.

The Called Meeting of John Calvin Presbytery was called to order at 2:00 PM by Moderator the Rev. Kira Anderson, followed by an opening prayer by the Rev. Frank LeBlanc. Elder Mary Beth Funk read Psalm 29.

Stated Clerk Becky Schwandt stated the purpose of this Called Meeting was to examine the Rev. Dr. Thomas Schacher for membership in John Calvin Presbytery and full-time call as the installed pastor of St. Andrew at Kimberling City, Missouri. And, if the way be clear, to elect an Administrative Commission to install him on July 9th, 2023.

Based on attendance and the participation list Stated Clerk, Becky Schwandt, declared that a quorum was present for this called meeting of John Calvin Presbytery. (A quorum necessary to transact business at each stated meeting of the presbytery shall consist of not less than six (6) ministers and as many ruling elders as may be present providing that at least four (4) particular churches are represented by ruling elders.)

ATTENDANCE: The attendance for the June 6th, Called Meeting of John Calvin Presbytery was thirty nine (39) in total. The breakdown follows:

Seven (7) Teaching Elders serving church, attended in person

Five (5) Teaching Elders, Honorably Retired, attended in person

Zero (0) Commissioned Ruling Elders serving a church, attended in person

Four (4) Ruling Elder Commissioners attended in person

Two (2) Moderators of Presbytery, General Council, and Committees, attended in person (not counted as pastors, elders or CREs)

Eighteen (18) Volunteers, attended in person

One (1) Visitors, attended in person

One (1) Corresponding Member

2 (2) Staff members, attended in person

Five (5) Churches were represented by elder commissioners (Two churches qualify to have two Elder Commissioners)

COMMUNITY	CHURCH	TEACHING ELDER or CRE	Present Excused Absent	RULING ELDER COMMISSIONER
Ash Grove, MO	U. Methodist / Presbyterian	Crews, Joe	Absent	Absent
Aurora, MO	First Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Baxter Springs, KS	First Presbyterian	Gantt, Larry	Absent	Absent
Carlyle, KS	Carlyle Presbyterian	Traw, Steve	Absent	Absent
Carthage, MO	First Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Chanute, KS	First Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Crane, MO	Crane Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Holt, Linda
Crocker, MO	Crocker Presbyterian	Agnew, Bill	Absent	Absent
Erie, KS	Federated Presbyterian	Choi, Shella	Absent	Absent
Everton, MO	Hampton Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Forsyth, MO	Community Presbyterian	LeBlanc, Frank	Present	Absent
Fort Scott, KS	First Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Galena, MO	St. Andrew @ Hideaway	Vacant	Vacant	Excused
Golden City, MO	First Presbyterian	Iannucilli, Christine	Absent	Absent
Greenfield, MO	Ebenezer Presbyterian	Bartels, Robert	Absent	Absent
Hollister, MO	Hollister Presbyterian	Cherry, Clancy	Absent	Wilson, Bob
Iola, KS	First Presbyterian	Davis, Daniel	Present	Absent
Joplin, MO	Bethany Presbyterian	Oster, Tim	Absent	Absent
Joplin, MO	First Presbyterian	Anderson, Kira	Present	Spieth, Toni
Joplin, MO	First Presbyterian	Anderson, John	Absent	Absent
Kimberling City	St. Andrew Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Funk, Mary Beth
Lockwood, MO	First Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Mt. Vernon, MO	First Presbyterian	Mercer, Julie	Excused	Absent
Mt. Vernon, MO	Ozark Prairie Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Mt. View, MO	First Presbyterian	Cooke, Diane	Absent	Absent
Mulberry, KS	United Presbyterian	Cuthbertson, Bob	Absent	Absent
Neosho, MO	First Presbyterian	Lee, William	Absent	Absent

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Nevada, MO	First Presbyterian	Agee, Laura	Absent	Absent
Ozark, MO	Ozark Presbyterian	Schwandt, Becky	Present	Excused
Parsons, KS	First Presbyterian	Dawson, Jennifer	Absent	Absent
Pittsburg, KS	Presbyterian Church	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Pittsburg, KS	Presbyterian Church	-----	-----	Absent
Rolla, MO	First Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Sarcoxie, MO	First Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Scammon, KS	First Presbyterian	Vacant	Vacant	Absent
Shell Knob, MO	Trinity Presbyterian	Wobbema, Peggy	Excused	Absent
Springfield, MO	Gibson Chapel Presbyterian	Cormack, Jack	Present	Absent
Springfield, MO	Hillcrest Presbyterian	Cormack, Jack	Present	Absent
Springfield, MO	Southminster Presbyterian	CLOSING	_____	_____
Springfield, MO	Trinity PCUSA	Miller, Chris	Excused	Uffman, Susan
Springfield, MO	Trinity PCUSA	_____	_____	
Springfield, MO	UMHE	Vacant	Vacant	-----
Springfield, MO	Westminster Presbyterian	Pulleyking, Micki	Absent	Absent
Springfield, MO	Woodland Presbyterian	Roberts, Matthew	Excused	Absent
Stockton, MO	Stockton Presbyterian	Hill, Dale	Absent	Absent
Webb City, MO	First Presbyterian	Spencer, Charles	Absent	Absent
West Plains, MO	First Presbyterian	Dahlgren, Robert	Present	Absent
Willard, MO	Mt. Zion Presbyterian	Lee, Daniel	Present	Absent
Willow Springs, MO	Willow Springs Presbyterian	Cooke, Diane	Absent	Absent
_____	Honorably Retired	Anders, Dixie	Present	_____
_____	Honorably Retired	Evans, Vicki	Excused	_____
_____	Honorably Retired	Field, Bob	Present	_____
_____	Honorably Retired	Havens, Bill	Present	_____
_____	Honorably Retired	Williams, Barry	Present	_____
_____	Honorably Retired	Winzenried, Dennis	Present	

Presbytery Moderators and Staff		
Presbytery moderator	Anderson, Kira	Present
Presbytery moderator-elect	Davis, Daniel	Present
General Council moderator	Holt, Jim	Present
Administrative Ministries moderator	Dahlgren, Bob	Present
Committee on Ministry	Deleske, Reina	Present
Committee on Representation	Muegge, Sarah	Excused
Mission and Nurture Committee	Lee, Daniel	Present
Presbyterian Women Co-Moderator	Russell, Joan	Excused
Presbyterian Women Co-Moderator	Jackson, Linda	Absent
Treasurer	Winzenried, Dennis	Present
Pastoral Presbyter - Staff	Spencer, Malinda	Present
Stated Clerk - Staff	Schwandt, Becky	Present
Transitional Project – staff	Emery, Greg	Excused

VISITORS

VOLUNTEERS

Dennis and Frances Ahlvers	Deb and Bob Field	Greg Love	Brenton and Becky Tucker
Chris Artemenko	Jim Haney	Susan Maudlin	
Jim and June Constable	Louise Jones	Paul and Debbie Perry	
John Daleski	Jackie Kosoff	Andrea Pfeiffer	

Stated Clerk Becky Schwandt moved to seat the Rev. Dr. Thomas Schacher, candidate for St. Andrew at Kimberling City. Seconded and approved.

Docket

Called Meeting of John Calvin Presbytery St. Andrew at Kimberling City June 6th, 2023

2:00PM Call to Order - Moderator, the Rev. Kira Anderson
Opening Prayer - The Rev. Frank LeBlanc
Psalm of the Day - Psalm 29 - Elder Mary Beth Funk
Declaration of a Quorum - Stated Clerk, the Rev. Becky Schwandt
Report of the Committee on Ministry - Elder Reina Daleske and Elder Jim Holt
Adjourn in Prayer - Moderator, the Rev. Kira Anderson

Report of the Committee on Ministry

Moderator of the Committee on Ministry Elder Reina Daleske spoke briefly on COM's role concerning the calling of new pastors. She then invited the moderator of St. Andrew's PNC, Elder Deb Field, to speak to the search process of calling the Rev. Dr. Thomas Schacher.

Elder Deb Field submitted the following report:

Good afternoon, and welcome to St. Andrew. We are so pleased to have you here with us for this special occasion.

I am Deb Field, moderator of the Pastor Nominating Committee. We have a long and storied history but suffice it to say that God's timing is perfect. In 2021, we were the beneficiaries of the estate of our beloved member, Dr. Virginia Fogerson. Also, in 2021 our Presbytery Consultant, Greg Emery led a group that we called New Directions through a process of discernment. By December, the PNC was formed and we created an MIF that we felt reflected who we are and what we wished to be about as a church – using words like “betting the farm” and including a list of duties the pastor will NOT have to do, such as “cleaning the 8000 square foot debt free building, replacing the 2-ply toilet paper, or running the new audio-visual equipment for streaming.” Because of Virginia's bequeath, after tithing to mission and paying off our mortgage, we were able to search for a full-time pastor.

The PNC began meeting formally on January 14 of last year. At that meeting we studied the process and signed a covenant agreement which included confidentiality and praying for one another. We discussed the evaluation rubric and put it to use on 2 PIFs. It was an exciting time.

One year, almost to the day, and **110** PIFs later, we received Pastor Tom's PIF.

By then, we had reached out to about 1/3 of the PIFs. (When I checked the math, for other math nerds like me, the ratio turned out to be *pi*.) We had held Zoom interviews with several (8) candidates and invited 2 to visit in person. It was a bit of a roller coaster ride but onward we pressed. Then we read Pastor Tom's PIF. As I told him in my first email to him, his first sentences in the “ministry setting to which he feels called” could have been written for our

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MIF. He said, "My desire is to be a part of a church that wants to reach out to all people with the Good News. We must take the Word of God, the life-challenging and changing message of the Lord into all the world. My desire is to be part of a church that wants to be the church and not just another organization in town or business. We bear witness to something that the people of the community and world can only receive from a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. So, we must share our faith joyfully with them through word and deed, love and justice, worship and prayer."

In conversations with Pastor Tom, he suggested thinking creatively and doing things a little differently. Greg Emery had prepared us and encouraged us to think outside the box, so we were open to exploring a different process. Pastor Tom suggested a period of providing pulpit supply for four weeks that would include fellowship activities for us to get to know one another. That was approved, and after only one Sunday, I'm pretty sure the entire congregation was convinced he was supposed to be our pastor. But we followed the plan for those 4 Sundays. The congregational vote was held on May 21 and was unanimous in favor of calling Pastor Tom.

I want to thank the PNC for their faithful and professional dedication to our search. They embodied the tenet of serving with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

We appreciate the Executive Presbyter Malinda Spencer, and the Committee on Ministry who have supported us along this creative and often non-traditional path. We thank the congregation for their patience and prayers. We appreciate ALL of your prayers for us and for all of the churches who are searching. In particular we appreciate all of our pulpit supply pastors and the prayers they spoke aloud for "the pastor whom you have in mind for this church." We grew to know and love them, and they sustained us. We are so grateful.

Due to her role as COM moderator and her membership at St. Andrew, Elder Reina Daleske invited Elder Jim Holt, Moderator of General Council, to introduce the Rev. Dr. Thomas Schacher.

Elder Jim Holt, introduced Tom Schacher for examination and asked Tom the first question. After Tom's answer the first question, the floor was open to questions from the presbyters. Following this examination, **the motion was made, seconded and approved to arrest the examination.** Tom temporarily left the meeting. Discussion and questions ensued. **The motion was made, seconded and approved to suspend the examination and that presbytery approve the Rev. Dr. Thomas Schacher for membership in John Calvin Presbytery and install him as the full-time pastor at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church at Kimberling City. Motion passed.**

The motion was made on behalf of the Committee on Ministry to approve the terms of call as listed below for the Rev. Dr. Thomas Schacher with a start date of June 7th, 2023. Motion passed.

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Salary	\$41,900
Housing Allowance	\$15,000
Total Effective Salary	\$56,900
Board of Pensions Dues	\$22,191
Continuing Education	\$1,500
Allowance Automobile / Mileage	\$1,000
Professional Expenses	\$500
Social Security Tax Supplement	\$4,352
Medical Deductible, Coinsurance Payments, Dental	\$1,500
Other: Additional BOP Insurance Premiums	\$2,200
Total Cost to Church Budget	\$90,143
Continuing Education Leave	2 Weeks
Vacation Leave	4 Weeks

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Schacher rejoined the meeting. The Rev. Daniel Davis prayed Tom and the congregation of St. Andrew for their ministry together.

Elder Jim Holt moved that John Calvin Presbytery approve the following commissioners for an Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Dr. Thomas Schacher to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Kimberling City, on July 9th, 2023 at 4:00 PM:

The Rev. Kira Anderson
Elder Marga Pogue
Elder Bill Martin

Elder Malinda Spencer
The Rev. Kent Hollingsworth
Elder Reed Click

Coming from a committee this did not need a second. JCP Moderator Kira Anderson opened the floor for discussion and recognized the Rev. Barry Williams. **Barry nominated the Rev. Dennis Winzenried to serve on the Administrative Commission, thereby offering an amendment to the original motion to achieve parity on the AC. The motion was seconded and approved.**

Moderator Kira Anderson than asked the body to vote on the **amended motion with the following commissioners serving on the AC: The Rev. Kira Anderson, Elder Reed Click, The Rev. Kent Hollingsworth, Elder Bill Martin, Elder Marga Pogue, Elder Malinda Spencer, the Rev. Dennis Winzenried.** The motion was seconded, and approved.

The Rev. Frank LeBlanc moved that we adjourn the meeting following the closing prayer. Seconded and approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM with prayer offered by Moderator Kira Anderson.

Supplemental Documents

Bio for the Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Schacher

The Rev. Dr. Thomas L. Schacher is originally from St. Louis, MO but was brought up in Springfield, MO where he attended Southwest Missouri State University receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Religious Studies and Sociology. After graduating, he attended Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity degrees.

Pastor Tom, as he prefers to be called, has been a pastor for 29 years and has served churches in Kentucky, Arkansas, Ohio, Oklahoma, New York and Michigan. Pastor Tom has a passion for mission. He has served on and led mission teams to Costa Rica, Russia, the Czech Republic and Cuba. He also has a passion for helping people in need and ministering along side others for the work of justice and peace.

In his 29 years of ministry, Pastor Tom says that there are some very core values and gifts that stand out for him as qualities and characteristics of who he is as a pastor. The first, is his personal relationship with Jesus Christ. It is hard, he believes, to lead a congregation into deeper faith if you yourself are not doing so in your own life. He says, "I don't just speak the words I walk them as best I can. My faith is personal and that's how I share it." Sharing his faith is another quality that Pastor Tom believes is core to who he is. He says, "I love to tell the story of Jesus and his love in my life to people all over the world. Not to highlight me, but to lift up Christ. And I always do so, as in every other aspect of my ministry and life, with humility, which is something that I must work at. I don't think it comes naturally to not want to be served, but to be the servant; to not be the one lifted up, but the one who is doing the lifting. But my passion is to live my faith and to do so with a servant's heart which takes great perseverance in this world." When it comes to ministry, Pastor Tom says that he is always open to new ideas and ways of doing things. "I'm not afraid of taking risks or failing" he says, "and when I do fail, I don't let a little setback determine what's next. I hang in there and keep up the good fight and do so with integrity and enthusiasm."

Pastor Tom and his wife, Jane, have two daughters — McKenna, 28, and Madelyn, 19 and they live in Ridgedale, MO where they have a home and a family Airbnb business. In his spare time, Pastor Tom enjoys painting, mainly landscapes in acrylic. He says that painting relaxes him, takes him to new places and helps him explore new vistas of imagination and creativity.

Statement of Faith

I believe that there is meaning beyond this world and this life. This world and all of life in it did not originate by itself or accidentally. God created it and did so out of love. That mighty and loving power is God who loves us and is intimately interested and involved in our lives. That belief has been paramount to my life and ministry. God's desire to be in relationship with me, with all of us, has been quite evident even in the midst of difficult days and that compels me forward with hope.

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I believe that in Jesus of Nazareth, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the Virgin Mary, we meet and know God and are invited into true relationship. In encountering the Christ we learn what God is like and what God desires from God's creation. In meeting Jesus, we learn what a truly human life is like. And even though we tend to distort that image God does not give up the relationship with us. God keeps inviting. Is there a greater witness of the lasting love of God than the empty tomb and Jesus resurrected from the dead? Throughout my life and ministry I have taken the Word of God to heart and believed it to be Ultimate Truth. I believe it is the unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ and God's word to me that has been and is, by the power of the Holy Spirit, life-changing and life-redirecting.

God has changed my life time and time again and keeps inviting me into life-changing relationship. Even as I struggle with life's problems, God comes toward me with expectation. I haven't always answered that expectation, but I have always known hope because I know that God is going to keep on inviting me into loving relationship.

I believe that God has chosen to invite people to be in this loving relationship through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ, God's only Son. This invitation is extended through the church, the body of Jesus Christ. The signs and seals of this relationship and God's work are the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. In Baptism we are invited into relationship with God through Jesus Christ and His Church; we are invited to identify with His death and resurrection and know the washing of our sins for new life. In sharing at the Lord's Table the invitation is extended to all that we would remember the great gift of love in and through the life of Christ and that we would go from the Table, nourished by the Holy Spirit, to share the invitation to life and love with the world.

I thank God for creating me, inviting me and loving me so much to sacrifice God's self in my place for my sins. I place myself under the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of my life. I open myself up to the working of the Holy Spirit. And, in total dependence on God, I seek to live a life of gratitude and a life of invitation as I obey God's words, take care of God's sheep, feed the poor, visit the sick, clothe the naked, and bring good news to the oppressed and hopeless until God's return.