

March 26, 2023

A Message from the FMC Pastoral Search Team:

The pastoral search team has offered a call to Caleb Yoder to be the next pastor at Faith Mennonite Church. Our Church Council has unanimously extended that call, which will now be followed by a five week long period of congregational discernment, followed by a congregational vote.

This journey together has allowed us to grow together spiritually over the last year, discerning, disagreeing, celebrating, socializing, learning, listening, and supporting each other when exhaustion set in. Every meeting, we began with this prayer:

*Almighty God, look graciously upon our search team and on the people of Faith Mennonite Church.  
Be with us and lead us as we seek the next pastor for our church.  
We ask your direction and guidance, for humility and wisdom, and that our path may be clear.  
Grant us perception, faithfulness and joy, so that we may hear your voice in our deliberations.  
Grant us also the desire and the ability to truly hear each other and those who have entrusted us with this process.  
Give us courage to respond and act as you lead us.  
Give strength and wisdom also to those seeking a pastor role and considering this position; that they may also be granted perception, humility, faithfulness and joy in that process.  
Come Holy Spirit, as we meet and discern.  
We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

As we reflect on our time together getting to know Caleb, we have no doubt that the Holy Spirit brought us together. One of the shared sentiments after our second meeting with Caleb was a deep sense of peace. Caleb led us in prayer and we were all struck by how parallel his prayer was to the one above that we have grown so familiar with.

As a search team, we are grateful to have been part of this intense, but also exciting and very spirit-filled journey on behalf of Faith, and now with Caleb, and to be working toward a settled pastorate in the coming months. We thank the Council for choosing and tasking us to find our next pastor, and all of you for entrusting us with this process. We look forward to your meeting him as well and discerning with us in prayer and conversation. The FMC pastoral search team is honored to present Caleb Yoder.

Blessings and Peace,  
Rachel, Pat, Minke, Matthew and Andy