

Congregational Listening Process

A resource offered to congregations in transition by the La Crosse Area Synod

Purpose: to develop a “portrait” of a congregation with its strengths and weaknesses, gifts and challenges, that will help congregation leaders, call committee members, and potential pastors make wise decisions that reflect our Christian purpose

Process: a single weekend detailed below, organized by Pastor Hallemeier and a Coordinator (or two) appointed by the congregation council

Personnel: Pastor Christine Hallemeier and a listening partner

Costs: *A Supply Pastor* for Pastor Hallemeier’s congregation, meals on site, and mileage reimbursement for the two team members

Preliminary Actions

- Recommendation by the bishop’s office
- Approval by the congregational council

Structure of the Listening Weekend

- Congregation members attend a one-hour session on Saturday to express their views. Each group involves 8-12 people and sign-up is ahead of time.
- On Sunday, Pastor Hallemeier preaches at the worship service(s).
- Following the service(s) she gives a summation of the team’s findings, which usually takes about 1 ½ hours. Many congregations provide light refreshments at this time.

Responsibilities of Coordinator(s)

These are all done in partnership with Pastor Hallemeier and often involve the recruitment of other helpers.

- **Publicity:** information about the LW is shared through a council letter, newsletter articles, bulletin inserts, and temple talks
- **Sign-up Sheet:** post a sign-up sheet for the LW group meetings and encourage people to attend. The week before the LW, some phone calling is usually advisable.
- **LW Details:** room set-up, hospitality (welcome & refreshments for group participants), team meals, and whatever else is needed for a successful event