



What's Next?

Call Process of the Central / Southern Illinois Synod

**To many it feels like an uncertain time.
To others it's a mystery.
Fear not! The synod staff is walking with you.**

**Here is what you can expect in this transition time
for your congregation.**

1. The bishop with your council's approval, will appoint an **interim pastor** to serve you. The interim pastor serves the ministry of the congregation. The interim pastor does not serve in the call process.
2. The council will compile and submit a **Ministry Site Profile** (a description of your congregation) to the synod.
3. A **call committee** will be established according to the guidelines of your constitution.
4. The call committee will **keep you informed** of the progress of its work until a nominee has been recommended to the council.
5. The call committee will meet with a member of the synod staff and **receive coaching** on how to conduct an effective interview.
6. The call committee will receive the name(s) of **nominee(s)**.
7. The call committee **will interview**, check references, and usually hear the nominee preach.
8. After the call committee has voted to **recommend a nominee** to the congregation council, it will meet with the congregation council to share information about the recommended nominee.

9. Your council will have the opportunity to meet and speak with the nominee. The **council will discuss compensation and benefits** with the nominee.
10. If the council votes to **recommend the nominee** to the congregation, the council will call a congregational meeting for the purpose of issuing a call.
11. The congregation council will formally **recommend that the congregation call the nominee** to be your pastor.
12. Members of the congregation will be given the opportunity to **meet the nominee**.
13. A **vote of the congregation** takes place according to your constitution.
14. If the congregation votes "yes," a **Letter of Call** is signed and forwarded to the bishop and sent on to the pastor.
15. The **nominee has 30 days** to accept or decline the call.
16. If the nominee accepts the call, an **installation** date is set. If the candidate declines the call, the call committee goes back to work with the synod staff.

**Through the whole process,
your prayers are essential.**

Pray that the Holy Spirit will guide you,
your call committee, your council, and your synod
in discerning who God is calling
to serve as your next pastor.



Central / Southern Illinois Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

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