

Call Committee: Report to Congregation

16th April 2023

Previous Call

In the Call Meeting (part of the half yearly meeting) on 20th November 2022, the Good Shepherd Congregation voted to call Pastor David Schmidt. A call was extended to David and after prayer and consideration, he declined this call.

Further Work

The Call Committee has consulted with Assistant Bishop Stephen Schultz and a list of 13 names was produced. This was discerned down to a short list of six. Of these three were prepared to consider a call and the call committee talked with these people. Prayerful consideration led two names to be considered most suitable at this time for our mission at Good Shepherd.

Call List Presented to the Congregation

This list of two names is now presented to the Congregation for your prayerful consideration, acceptance and voting after the 10:30am service on Sunday 16th April 2023. A brief outline of each person is below.

NOTE: No names will be accepted from the floor at a Call Meeting. Please respect the sensitive nature of this information about these pastors during this call process.

Pastor Greg Fowler

Greg is currently the Pastor at Golden Grove Lutheran Church and School. He is 59 years old, married with two adult children and also enjoys being a grandparent. Through the example of his wife and her family, he became a Christian and soon after this, God put a strong calling on his heart. He became an ordained pastor in 2003 after vicaring at Para Vista under Pastor Peter Steicke. He was also chaplain at Endeavour College and pastor at two other congregations.

He values relationships and working in ministry teams, serving to ensure that all are on the same page. Greg asks questions in ministry: Why are we doing this? How can we better engage people? He believes helping young people to grow in their faith through Children and Youth Ministry is vital. He likes exploring the movement of Holy Spirit and is passionately involved in healing and prayer ministry at Golden Grove. Greg loves to see where God is at work and is invested in seeing people engaged in worship.

Pastor Richard Fox

Richard currently has a district role in Lutheran Media and is based in Adelaide. He is 49 years old and married with two teenage children. Richard came to the ministry via a roundabout route, started studying accountancy, was an AFL umpire and worked at Lutheran Community Care as a business manager. His first parish was at Waikerie with four preaching points and a Lutheran school. At that time they were transitioning from two pastors to one. After about two years, he accepted a call from Lutheran Media and has been there for approximately 12 years as the voice of mission. Richard likes to work with teams and to empower others. He has undertaken leadership training and sees that it takes many people to fulfil the congregation's mission.

Richard is flexible with worship styles and prefers to work with themes. He has had experience with and loves working with youth, having done this both before and after becoming an ordained pastor. He has a passion for sharing the Gospel and has been active in this since his teenage years. At times he has purposely stepped back to let others take the lead, but still be there to support them. He is open to the calling of the Holy Spirit in his life and has seen this many times.

Yours in Christ

Yours in Christ, Christa Schwarz (Chair) on behalf of the Call Committee (Lindsay Freund, Valerie King, Nicole Pfeiffer, Peter Schlenk, Matt Schmidt, Ros Thiele, David Wilksch).