

Unprinted memorial (2025-04)

Subject: *Pastor call frequency and its impact on pastor, family, and congregation*
Floor Committee #2

- WHEREAS 1) the process of issuing and receiving calls is a divine gift, guided by the Holy Spirit, to place workers in the harvest field where they are most needed (Matthew 9:37,38); and
- WHEREAS 2) frequent pastoral calls and multiple calls can place significant emotional, spiritual, and logistical burdens on pastors, pastors' families, and congregations; and
- WHEREAS 3) pastors may experience a distraction to the focus of their current ministry to adequately consider the call; and
- WHEREAS 4) pastors' families also experience the strain of frequent considerations, which may influence their stability, relationships, education, and well-being; and
- WHEREAS 5) congregation members often invest deeply in relationships with their pastors, and repeated call processes may lead to feelings of instability, grief, or fatigue, potentially affecting morale and participation in congregational life; ability to successfully execute an outreach effort to build membership and reach the communities with the Word of God; and affect building projects, fundraising, attendance, and financial giving; and
- WHEREAS 6) the synod has a responsibility to study trends and their effects to ensure the health of both congregations and called workers, adapting practices where prudent while trusting God's guidance in the call process; and
- WHEREAS 7) pastors, following a four-year exemption following the acceptance of a call, may receive calls from multiple locations every six months at the conclusion of that initial term. The call process demands significant time, effort, prayer, and communication with family members and congregation(s); therefore be it

Resolved, that the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod amend the practice making pastors eligible for calls every six months and extend the eligibility period to twelve months.

Church councils of Our Redeemer, Ladysmith, and St. John, Cornell, Wisconsin