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TO: RLCA Congregation Members
FROM: Jay Walterreit, 2019-20 Congregational Council Chair
DATE: August 24, 2019
RE: Pastor Hagan Withdraws from Consideration for Interim Pastor Position

Thank you to everyone who participated in this past week's events centering around RLCA's search for an intentional interim pastor. Many congregation members expressed to me their appreciation for the opportunities to participate in the Bible study Thursday night and the question and answer session Friday night.

I heard a lot of great questions being asked and am so thankful for the interest and involvement being shown by those in attendance. I greatly enjoyed meeting Pastor Hagan and have learned so much about the intentional interim process.

Throughout my communication with Pastor Hagan he and I were committed to discerning God's will regarding if and how he would be involved with RLCA. Early in our talks, Pastor Hagan clearly communicated to me that his overriding priority was to understand where God was leading him.

He also let me know that he was communicating with another congregation about an intentional interim pastor position. In our discussions Pastor Hagan always displayed honesty, integrity, and a great love for the Lord, and for that I thank him.

On Wednesday, after Pastor Hagan and his wife had begun their trip to Alpena, they received an offer for an interim pastor position from another congregation. Pastor Hagan clearly communicated this fact to me, while also saying that he had not yet made a decision whether to accept the call. We continued with the planned activities in Alpena with the affirmed goal of actively discerning God's will for all of us. Pastor Hagan and I agreed that he and Council would meet after the Q&A session Friday evening to reach clarity on how we all were to move forward.

When Council met with Pastor Hagan he told us he felt it was God's will for him to accept the call from the other church and he officially withdrew from consideration for RLCA's interim pastor position.

Before ending our meeting, Pastor Hagan outlined his thoughts on how RLCA may move forward. In brief, he encouraged us to think and pray about:

1. Reconciliation
2. Our organization and structure
3. Our congregational vision
4. Property/physical location

After Pastor Hagan left the meeting, Council discussed the situation and how best to proceed.

We all agreed that communication with the congregation is imperative; this message is part of that communication. I encourage everyone to talk with a council member for more information and feedback.

We ended Friday night's meeting by agreeing to change our September Council meeting to September 4, about a week earlier than originally scheduled. Our work between now and then is to think and pray about what we have experienced and how God is leading us forward.

I encourage our whole congregation to come together in unity, to profess our love and commitment to our congregation and to each other, and to actively seek God's will with an open heart and open mind.

May God bless you and keep you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay Waltereit".

Jay