

# Mount Olive Lutheran Church

## CONGREGATION SELF STUDY

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I. Describe your congregation's efforts and activity in each of the following ministry areas. Also, describe the strengths and weaknesses of each ministry area:

a. Child Ministry:

b. Youth Ministry:

c. Family Ministry:

d. Discipleship Ministry:

e. Outreach/Evangelism Ministry:

f. Community Service:

g. Missions:

## **II. Congregational Expectations and Goals**

How would you summarize the purpose for which your congregation exists? What is unique about your congregation's ministry?

What are the greatest needs of your community? How are they determined?

How does your congregation serve your community?

List and defend several goals toward which your congregation should be working in future years.

List and explain at least 3 areas in which you feel the congregation is strong (things the congregation does well).

In what areas do you feel the congregation needs the most growth?

How does your "vision" of your congregation in 5 years compare and contrast to current reality?

What are two things that you feel your congregation needs more than anything else right now, to be most effective?

What things do you think are most necessary for maintaining good relationships between pastor and people?

How does the congregation respect the pastor's need for "private time?" (For prayer, study, family, recreation.)

In your opinion, is sufficient time given?

Describe your worship style(s)? What are your current practices?

What do you believe is essential for the District President and pastoral candidates to know about worship in your congregation?

### **III. Pastoral Expectations**

We recognize the following may be difficult to rate but it is helpful for self-analysis. Please rate each pastoral function, trait, and ability according to what you feel is of importance for your parish. A list of explanations for each category is appended to assist you. Rate each item from 1 to 10, a 1 rating means "of no importance," and a 10-rating means "utmost importance." (**\*Please use whole numbers!**)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tact                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Singles Ministry                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patience                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Older Adult Ministry                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooperation                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Ministry                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initiative                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry to In-actives                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Group Ministries                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Team Ministry                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Assimilation of New Members                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Leadership Development                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Witnessing                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Creative                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> People Skills                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Preaching Content                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Involvement            | <input type="checkbox"/> Preaching Delivery                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Grooming                | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Ability                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Openness to Continuing Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conference Participation         | <input type="checkbox"/> Music Ministry                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Literate                | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry              | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach Visitation                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Ministry                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Visitation (sick, shut-in, outreach, and home) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult Ministry             |   |

List the five most important qualities for a pastor to have.

List the next five pastoral functions, traits or abilities you would like to have in your next pastor.

Any other comments:

## **RATING CATEGORIES FOR THE PASTORS**

**TACT:** Speaks and acts in a manner to maintain good relations with people, and not intentionally give offense. Works to deepen good relations with all people and loves people as redeemed souls in the blood of Jesus Christ. Is careful and sensitive with regard to what he says and does in order not to impede the proclamation of the true Word of God.

**PATIENCE:** Bears the burdens of the ministry without complaining, gives people the benefit of the doubt and is a good model of putting the best construction on what people say and do. Is not hasty or impetuous in his actions and decisions. Exhibits the Scriptural virtue of “longsuffering.”

**COOPERATION:** Cooperates with the people as the Priesthood of Believers, seeks to work in concert with the leaders of the congregation. Is a team player, makes a conscious effort to maintain a good working relationship with all the people of the parish, being particularly sensitive to local traditions, practices, and concerns.

**INITIATIVE:** Works at being a good leader, is a self-starter, energetic and faithful in his work. Dependable, does his work well and without constant supervision.

**ADMINISTRATION:** Exhibits good leadership and management skills. Works well with boards and committees of the congregation so that the work of the church is carried out faithfully in an efficient, orderly, evangelical, and doctrinally sound way. Works at equipping people in the parish for their tasks and takes the time to properly inform and train them for their duties. Evangelically calls people responsible for various tasks to be accountable for those tasks. Maintains parish records in a responsible manner, and completes reports in good order and in a timely fashion. Supervises staff in an efficient, caring, and responsible manner.

**TEAM MINISTRY:** Possesses the ability to work together with others in a collegial way as part of a team. Shows respect for the other members of the team. Understands his position and responsibilities and how they contribute to the overall ministry of the congregation. Is able to have a collegial conversation with other members, as necessary, to address and resolve conflicts or matters of concern regarding the ministry of the congregation.

**LEADERSHIP:** Keeps before the people of the congregation a vision of where they are to be going and what they are to be doing. Has a good understanding of the mission of the church and the priorities necessary to accomplish that mission. Encourages the support and participation of the people in the work to be accomplished without being dictatorial.

**INNOVATION:** Being faithful to the Scriptures, he brings ideas and advice to matters that the congregation is addressing or needs to address. Will examine or try new ideas, methods, or devices.

**CREATIVITY:** Is imaginative, and able to effect a course of action or behavior with new techniques or approaches.

**PEOPLE SKILLS:** Works conscientiously at getting along with all people, has a pleasing personality, and is sensitive, pleasant, and empathetic. Is well regarded by his people and peers.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** Is engaged with the community in ways that he is able to help and assist and is visible and known in and by the community. Is sensitive and responsive to the needs of those outside the congregation.

**PERSONAL GROOMING:** Is clean and well appearing and dresses in a way that does not offend nor draw undue attention to himself. His appearance is consistent with his position and does not reflect poorly on his congregation.

**PARTICIPATION IN CONTINUING EDUCATION:** Is willing to continue studying and learning in order to remain well informed and well trained in his Calling.

**CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:** Is faithful in attending pastor’s conferences, and takes an active role in such conferences,

convocations, and the like.

**USE OF COMPUTER:** Is familiar with computers and able to use them competently and appropriately in his pastoral ministry and in service of his congregation.

**USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA:** Is familiar with various social media venues and is able to utilize them appropriately for his pastoral ministry and in service of his congregation.

**ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL:** He has a commitment to and feels good about the Christian Day School as an agency for Christian education in the church.

**ATTITUDE TOWARD HOME SCHOOLING:** He has a good understanding of home schooling and the benefits of this approach to education.

**ATTITUDE TOWARD SYNOD:** He is loyal to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and seeks to uphold its doctrine and practice.

**ATTITUDE TOWARD DISTRICT:** He supports the work of the District and welcomes the assistance provided by the District Office.

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY:** Relates well to children, and communicates effectively with them. Has a high regard for the Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other children's ministries in the congregation.

**YOUTH MINISTRY:** Has an interest in and skill for working with young people. Understands that young people are also the church and works to equip them with God's Word, saving faith, and the ability to live the Christian life. Is patient with youth, and understands the special challenges that they face.

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY:** Works well with this age group (18 – 30), and is sensitive to their special perspective on things and the needs in their lives.

**SINGLES MINISTRY:** Is comfortable and able to work with single adults and is sensitive to their special challenges and circumstances in the world. He understands that they do not at times fit into social structure that caters to couples and families.

**OLDER ADULT MINISTRY:** Has an interest in and skill for working with older adults. Is sensitive to their needs, willing to listen to their concerns, and gentle and patient with them in their weaknesses. Is faithful and conscientious in providing Word and Sacrament ministry to the shut-ins.

**FAMILY MINISTRY:** Is sensitive to the needs of families, is helpful in bringing biblical truth to bear on such issues as parenting, discipline in the family, and special issues arising in single parent families.

**MINISTRY TO INACTIVES:** Is concerned about members who are not active in the parish, visits in their homes, and works at bringing them back into the active life and service of the congregation.

**SMALL GROUP MINISTRY:** Works well with small groups, such as Bible study groups, peer groups, special interest groups, and the like. He understands small group dynamics, and can identify and train small group leaders.

**ASSIMILATION OF NEW MEMBERS:** Is good at nurturing new members and helping them feel at home in the congregation. He assists the new members in becoming active and contributing members of the parish. He is sensitive to the special needs of people who are new to a congregation.

**LAY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:** Is capable of identifying people with good leadership qualities and then training and encouraging these people to assume leadership roles in the parish. Works at equipping people to carry out duties and responsibilities in the congregation.

**PERSONAL WITNESSING:** Has a genuine concern for the lost, and conveys that concern to the people of the parish. Makes evangelism calls and encourages and trains the congregation to do the same. In his personal life he is an example of a good witness

to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**COUNSELING:** Is open and accessible as a pastoral counselor to God's people with God's Word, but clearly understands his limits in terms of needs outside of the spiritual realm. Knows when he can help, and when he should refer to others. Carefully keeps all information with regard to counseling confidential. He is a good listener, is not judgmental, and uses God's Word appropriately.

**PREACHING CONTENT:** Understands that preaching is more than a presentation of biblical narrative and Confessional soundness, but must communicate and proclaim Law and Gospel. Knows that preaching which edifies is presenting Law and Gospel in such a way that even a child can understand it. Makes the Gospel prominent in his preaching, but preaches the whole Word of God with faithfulness. Makes clear application of the Word of God to lives of the people of the congregation. Is faithful to the Scriptures and Confessions in his sermons.

**PREACHING DELIVERY:** Preaches in a manner that makes the sermon interesting and understandable. Preaches with confidence and with a passion for the Word of God and for the people that God has placed in his care. Preaches in an engaging manner using good communication skills, and makes good use of illustrations.

**TEACHING ABILITY:** Understands that teaching is more than lecturing, and uses methods appropriate to his hearers, whether children or adults. Works to present material so that people grow in knowledge, attitude, and skill with regard to the Christian faith and life. Works to train teachers in the parish so that others in Sunday School classes or Bible classes may assist him in his work of teaching God's Word in the congregation.

**WORSHIP:** Understands the nature of worship and leads the congregation in worship on a regular basis, and in appropriate manner and form. Carefully prepares for each worship service, and leads the congregation in understanding that in true Christian worship, that God is present in His Word and Sacraments and through these means of grace is delivering to His people the gifts that He has for them in Jesus Christ. He teaches and encourages the people to attend the worship services in God's House faithfully, and works hard to make each service spiritually rich and nourishing.

**MUSIC MINISTRY:** Possesses music abilities (organ, piano, keyboard, directing a choir, etc.); is open to supervision by the leader of the team ministry; understands the position and responsibilities and how they contribute to the overall ministry of the congregation.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Teaches God's people the biblical principles of Christian stewardship, and models those principles in his own life. Works to help the people understand and practice what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ.

**OUTREACH/EVANGELISM:** Possess good people skills and is able to relate well to other people; is aware of current best practices in reaching people with the Gospel; possesses the ability to motivate others to be involved in the outreach programs of the congregation and to share their faith in Christ with others.

**VISITATION (SICK AND SHUT-IN, OUTREACH, AND HOME):** Understands that personal contact with members of the congregation and prospective members is very important. Makes visits to the homes of the people of the congregation, and maintains a posture of availability to members who want to come and visit with him. Reaches out to people and is accessible to all, and is sensitive to the needs of the sick and shut-in. Gives high priority to individual soul care.