

On Recommendation of the Vision Team

For the last several years the Vision Team, which is made up of members of both Calvary and St. James, have been meeting with the goal of strengthening the relationship between the two congregations and the ministry of both.

At its May meeting, the Vision Team made two recommendations to our congregational councils. The intent of these recommendations is to enhance the relationship between St. James and Calvary with an eye to the near future. Both recommendations have been adopted by the congregational councils.

It is common knowledge that Pastor Knowles will be retiring soon (though no specific date has been set yet). It is the hope of the Vision Team that with these two recommendations, Calvary and St. James will create a stronger ministry and a more appealing profile for potential pastoral candidates and perhaps shorten the time of the pastoral vacancy.

The two recommendations as adopted by the councils are:

- More frequent joint worship.
 - Calvary and St. James will begin worshiping together once a month on the third Sunday of the month beginning July 19 at Calvary at 10:30 a.m. We will alternate locations each month. So, the August 16 worship will be at St. James at 8:30 a.m.
- Begin the process of forming a joint parish.
 - Pastor will contact the synod office to initiate the process of forming a constitutional parish. Note that this does not mean merger. But, it formalizes the relationship between the two congregations and allows both to have a say in any call process.

The councils acknowledged that both recommendations can be altered as needed and are not necessarily permanent.

Please be open to these efforts to strengthen our ministry together as we seek to do the work God has called us to do for now and into the future.