

CELC Special Council Meeting

March 29, 2026

President Carol Moonan called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m. and opened with prayer.

Present: Olga Blanchard, Ann Bruce, Carol Moonan, Beth Blankenship, Sue Addy, John Brown, Jim Hill, Stevie Henderson, Su Erickson, Valerie Ellis

Absent: Kathy Williams, Sandy Gabel

Call Committee members present: Connie Sornsin, Jim Erickson, Kathy Coyle, Tony Fabrello, Fred Wordell, Rae Valabek (Jennifer Cole absent)

Connie Sornsin, Chair of the Call Committee presented a recommendation that Rev. John “Jeff” Hackler should be considered for call as the next pastor of CELC.

The RMP (rostered minister profile) was sent to the Council before this meeting giving some background information on Pastor Hackler. The Committee shared an executive summary of their recommendation with the Council. The Synod has conducted a background check on this candidate and Jim Erickson shared information from 3 of Pastor Hackler’s references. The Committee is waiting for additional reference information.

Council members had an opportunity to ask questions of the call committee. Council members were encouraged to watch some of Pr. Hackler’s sermons (available on YouTube).

The Executive Committee will meet and discuss specifics of the compensation package and arrange a meeting with Pastor Hackler before the April 7 special council meeting. On April 7, the Council will have an opportunity to meet and have a conversation with Pastor Hackler. They will then vote to recommend the call of this candidate to the congregation. A two-thirds voting majority is required for the name to be presented to the congregation.

The Council will also vote on the compensation package to be recommended to the congregation for its approval. A simple voting majority is required

It was moved by Olga Blanchard and seconded by Stevie Henderson to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Addy & Su Erickson

