

March 29, 2010

Reverend Russell Lackey
Reformation Lutheran Church
15750 Magnolia St.
Westminster, CA 92683

This letter will confirm our conversation concerning the possible call of Pastor Van Tran to Reformation Lutheran Church.

I won't go into all the history of how the original Vietnamese community with Pastor Le, and then Pastor Tran's community became a part of King of Glory. To bring in any culture that is so different from ours, with a language barrier, can be a challenge for both sides. The challenge is often made more difficult by how set in our ways and uncomfortable with change we can be.

The experience with Pastor Le, the predecessor to Pastor Tran was difficult because of the language and communication barrier. While still challenging, communication with Pastor Tran was considerably easier and more effective, partly because we had learned to try harder to confirm understanding of our communications.

Pastor Tran was highly visible to the members of King of Glory. Over a short time the Vietnamese worship community and members of King of Glory began to grow together. We quickly became one church with two expressions. The Vietnamese people at King of Glory took great pride in our facilities. They were eager to help, willing to participate, very respectful, and wonderful to know.

At the beginning, there naturally was some tension by some members because of the change, but if you were to ask members of King of Glory today if they would have liked Pastor Tran and his community to have stayed at King of Glory the overwhelming response would be YES!

I have heard various statements from some at King of Glory citing reasons for Pastor Tran's departure. I am confident that the reason he left was because of the actions taken by the ELCA last August and the fact that King of Glory had not taken a position against the changes. I highly respect Pastor Tran for his strong Biblical convictions.

Pastor Tran is very well known and respected throughout the Vietnamese communities locally and nationwide.

What a blessing for Reformation to have this opportunity to call such a highly visible, highly respected Pastor in the Vietnamese community. In your community the un-harvested crop is so abundant and Pastor Tran is eager and ready to harvest it! Praise God!

Pastor Tran, Bai and their worship community were a blessing to Caroline and I and to King of Glory. If we were members of Reformation we would strongly recommend, support and vote to call Pastor Van Tran.

Rod Anderson
Member of Good Shepherd L.C, Irvine
Former Vice President of Pacifica Synod Council (7 years)
Former member of King of Glory (24 years)