

Recommendation to call a Pastor of Vietnamese Ministries

I. Background

Last September, the Council of Elders agreed to allow a group of 150 Vietnamese Lutherans to use our facilities through January (we extended it through February for this annual meeting). These Lutherans were members of King of Glory Lutheran Church in Fountain Valley. They resigned from King of Glory over two issues: the 2009 ELCA National Assembly and a conflict between the senior and associate pastor of King of Glory. At the time, we were simply sponsoring them as they looked for a larger facility.

During these past five months, our view of the Vietnamese congregation has changed from compassion to deep respect. This community loves Jesus and wants everyone to know him. As a result, we believe there is a tremendous opportunity before Reformation (RLC). We would like to call Pastor Van Tran as the Pastor of Vietnamese Ministries. We understand that to bring on an ethnic ministry will be difficult. However, this church has not been afraid to offer difficult calls. In the past eight years the church has made the following difficult calls: Pastor Russell Lackey out of seminary; Jenny Brockman as Youth Director; Priscilla Silver as Director of Music Ministries; and Pirjo Carlisle as Diaconal Minister of Mercy Ministries.

II. Motion

WHEREAS the city of Westminster is 40% Vietnamese and to reach out the neighborhood means reaching out to the Vietnamese Community; and

WHEREAS Pastor Van Tran is one of only four Vietnamese Lutheran pastors in America; and

WHEREAS Pastor Van Tran has shown himself to be a man of character, graciousness, and deep fidelity to the Word of God; and

WHEREAS the members of his congregation can adequately pay his salary and excess offerings go to the RLC general operating fund; and

WHEREAS the members of his congregation bring many wonderful gifts that can strengthen our ministries; and

WHEREAS this opportunity is consistent with the multicultural picture presented in Revelation 7, *"After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb" (7:9-10)*; therefore, now be it

RESOLVED that we call Pastor Van Tran to the position of Pastor of Vietnamese Ministries; be it further

RESOLVED that we amend the 2010 budget by \$45,000 to pay his salary and expenses. (again this amount to be paid by the members of his congregation with the surplus offerings to go to RLC general fund).