

Red tape



(also known as the fine print)!

Each congregation is asked to be especially mindful of two rich resources of pastoral leadership...pastors over age 50 and pastors who are women. It is inconsistent with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to limit choice because of marital status, race, age, gender, disability, or other such factors.

A §604.20 background check must be completed on the pastor before vote and before the Letter of Call is extended by the Bishop. If the congregation votes to call a pastor prior to the §604.20 background check being completed, that vote is contingent on the completion of the background check.

New seminary graduates are now required to participate in First Call Theological Education which means they must take at least 50 continuing education hours per year for the first three years of their ministry. The congregation that calls a new graduate will be asked to submit \$150 annually to the synod office for the cost of the program, as well as grant the pastor the time for this study. This cost is in addition to the continuing education money granted a pastor when a Letter of Call is issued.



*Southeastern
Minnesota Synod, ELCA*

