

Mid-week Meditation
September 16, 2020
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New St. James Presbyterian Church

Perhaps it is time that I offer some thoughts on “*calling*”.

In the church context, it refers most often to a sense that one is being directed and led by God to a particular choice, or activity, or role.

It is most often used in terms of full-time ministry, but it also refers to other forms of service – eldership, teaching, or another form of service to God.

What it comes down to is this:

“Where your gifts intersect with the needs of the world, there your ministry lies”

I don’t remember who said it – it wasn’t me – but it is true.

I have known farmers, teachers, nurses, and other people, who believe that they were put on this earth to do what they are doing with their lives, and that they are serving God and fulfilling God’s purpose in doing so.

The candidate who is leading worship at NSJ on September 27, is doing just that – seeking to discern if this is where God is leading.

But there is another aspect of the procedure and it is this – the people of NSJ must also try to discern if the candidate is one who is suited to provide leadership in mission and ministry for NSJ, going forward.

Do the gifts of the candidate and the needs of NSJ intersect, as suggested by the quote above?

I have never been part of the call process, as a church member – but I have participated in it 3 times as a candidate.

This process, used by the Church, is not just finding a warm body, and filling a “*vacancy*” [I have used the term for years, but I never really liked it – I think “*opportunity*” is better].

It is far more important and significant than that.

Your decision has ramifications for the life, mission, and ministry of this congregation for the foreseeable future.

No pressure there! – but God is with you, and with the candidate.

I am praying for this good and faithful congregation, and the candidate.

May God’s will be done.