Center of Anabaptist Leadership and Learning

CALL and Affirmation Form

To be completed by the pastor. You may wish to share and discuss this material with the applicant as part of the process. It is usually helpful to include the elders or a similar group in the discernment process. You may also involve the whole congregation as appropriate.

The CALL Program faculty believe that a call from God into Church Leadership is not only through an inner and individual call, but also through the discernment of one’s own congregation. Admission into the program is a joint decision by the home congregation and Hesston College. Students also benefit greatly from the prayer, personal and financial support of their home congregation and the people who encouraged them to answer the call into leadership.

If you prefer to discuss any of this information by phone, please call Jessica Schrock-Ringenberg at 419-551-1315.

Please copy and paste the following questions into a Word or Google document. When you have answered the questions and your document is complete, please upload your document to Hesston College via the instructions at: www.hesston.edu/call-apply.

1. Name of Applicant:
2. Is the applicant a baptized member in good standing?
3. How long has the applicant attended this church and what leadership functions has the applicant assumed?
4. Describe the applicant’s sense of call to Church Leadership and how it has developed. How have they developed their gifts as a ministering person.
5. Describe the applicant’s patterns of relating in the family, congregation, and community.
6. Describe the applicant’s gifts and strengths.
7. Describe the applicant’s limitations or weaknesses. If possible, give suggestions for addressing these needs.
8. Describe the applicant's patterns of growth and change.
   a. Is this person realistic in self-appraisal?
   b. How does this individual interact with people with whom they may disagree?
   c. Does this person have an attitude conducive to learning? Are they teachable? Coachable? Open to being challenged?

9. Describe the applicant’s patterns of time and money management.

10. Describe the applicant’s theological background, as best as you know it, and how they tend to express their theological views.

11. Please list and describe any reservations you have about this person entering training for Church Leadership work.

12. If applicable describe the applicant's spouse in terms of gifts, needs, relationships, and the extent of support for pursuing Church Leadership. Describe areas in which growth is needed.

13. Do you recommend this person for admission into the CALL program? (Why or why not?)

14. The call to Church Leadership was affirmed (or not affirmed) by (congregation, elders, or group) on (date). Describe the process used in discerning this call. If a small group initiated the action, all should sign the completed response.

15. How much financial support will the congregation send each year? Will the congregation send the annual support in one payment (Due August 10), or in two payments (August 10 and January 10)?

16. Your Name, position, and Contact information (Address, email address, phone number):

17. Your conference minister’s name and contact information (Address, email address, phone number):

Sign the form and send a copy to your conference minister.

Upload a copy of the signed form via the instructions at: www.hesston.edu/call-apply

Thank you for your assistance.