

Call Committee
Letter of Recommendation
June 19, 2022

The Call Committee wishes to present Rev. Rosalina “Rosy” Rivera as our candidate for call as Pastor of Good Shepherd. Pastor Rosy comes to us from First Lutheran Church in Lorain, OH, where she has been Pastor since 2017. While the decision to leave her congregation is difficult, she is interested in a new call to move closer to family and friends and she is “most excited about where the Holy Spirit is leading.” When she came upon our Ministry Site Profile (MSP), she said, “It was as if it was written for me!” In fact, as we read her Rostered Ministers Profile (RMP) we were astonished to see how aligned the two documents were. It seemed the Holy Spirit was at work.

Pastor Rosy attended Lenior-Rhyne University and received a Bachelor of Music Education, as her passion was teaching. Rosy moved to Texas by way of Turkey and Arkansas, her husband at the time was stationed in those locations. The marriage ended in divorce and Rosy moved to Dallas. She began her teaching career there and eventually moved into the corporate world. The second company she began working for, in her words...” had God in the mission statement.” She began writing weekly devotions for the company. She was very active in her church at the time, and she leaned into her congregation and prayed a lot for God to help her discern a direction. Within her congregation she began writing articles for the newsletter and teaching the Children’s Sermons weekly. She was very good at this, and she loved it! She was then asked to preach at Wednesday services during Advent. She finally heard God calling her to her new “Teaching” profession by going into ministry. She attended Warburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA. When she completed seminary, she was called as an Associate Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Pflugerville, TX. She was there from 2013-2017, until she accepted the call as Pastor at First Lutheran.

During our interviews with Rosy and through listening to her sermons and podcasts, we were able to discern where God was leading us. We could see that Rosy was a great match for our congregation. We prayerfully focused on the objectives identified within our Ministry Site Profile, which were determined through our Appreciative Inquiry process with the congregation. It was very apparent that Pastor Rosy met our Top Five Ministry Task priorities: To be focused on Evangelism/Mission, to be Innovative, to be focused on Pastoral Care/Visitation and Youth and Family Ministry and to have a passion for Preaching/Worship.

We loved Rosy's Personal Ministry Statement on her RMP:

"My vision is to be God inspired, Christ Formed, and Spirit led as a servant in the church.

I will nurture God's people to develop an understanding of what it means to be an

active participant in God's creation, by affirming the spiritual gifts of the people I will serve."

We would use the following words to describe Rosy: Holy Spirit led, mission focused, high energy, creative, teacher, administrator, technology savvy, lover of Music, multi-generational leader. In our time with Rosy, she impressed us with her desire to be creative and push her congregation in new ways, while being respectful if they were not ready. She said, "It is not the Rosy Show." But she has lots of creative ideas and is very interested in working with a congregation where these ideas may flourish as God leads the ministry of the church.

Rosy is mission driven and feels that everything the congregation does should be driven by meeting the expectations of our Mission Statement. Rosy has a passion to share God's love with all people! Her preaching is relevant to the struggles we face in our world, while never drawing lines in the sand. She said, "When we draw lines, Jesus is always on the other side." She feels that when we face challenges together and talk, listen, and pray, we can grow together in respect and love.

Outreach is very important to Rosy as well. She is very excited to share God's love in the community through hands on serving. In her current congregation they have a food pantry for the community, they have a backpack ministry and they have partnered with a local school. She enjoys working with lay leaders in the congregation as well. She has over 300 continuing education hours in Stephens Ministry, which is a program to train lay leaders in the church to be Christian Mentors to people going through difficult times.

We feel Rosy will be able to meet our congregation at all levels. She is able and excited to engage with all age groups. We heard from both Pastor Rosy and some of the references we spoke to, that "she is able to meet and love people where they are." She engages the older members through Bible Study, visits to shut-ins and to those hospitalized and she engages the youth by teaching Confirmation, participating in VBS, traveling with them and being able to get on the floor and see things through a child's eyes. She enjoys being an active participant in both age groups.

Rosy did want us to share that she has a four-legged child that she has always brought with her to work, and she hopes to continue to do so. Sassy is a 7lb Chihuahua who has been with her since her first year in ministry. One of Rosy's references talked about Sassy and the unique role she plays in Rosy's ministry. While Sassy is important to Rosy, she seems to have a special job in breaking the ice with all age groups. According to the reference, Sassy is the calmest Chihuahua, who is super friendly, never gets snippy and does not bark. She has been very popular with her current congregation.

We hope you will be as excited as we are to consider Pastor Rosy for Call to GS. In her Rostered Minister Profile she states, "I love finding new ways of teaching and creating new teaching tactics which fosters a love of learning in others. This infectious behavior is what is needed to spawn church growth in any congregation." We feel confident that the Holy Spirit has brought the right person at the right time to GSLC and we are very excited and blessed to have been a part of the process.