

24 May 2017

Dear All

Subsequent to my sending out the agenda for the AGM this Sunday there have been a number of questions about why we need to vote for Craig's tenure as minister. As we at Randpark Ridge United (RRUC) work under a fairly unique set of circumstances I thought I would lay out the way the various denominations handle the calling of ministers and how we at RRUC do so.

CONGREGATIONAL

The Congregationalists have two methods of appointment:

- An open-ended call
- A contract with set terms

METHODIST

An invitation is for an initial 5 years and this may be extended by up to 5 years at a time and placements are decided at the Methodist Circuit Quarterly Meeting where a vote is taken on the placement of ministers.

PRESBYTERIAN

A minister is called to serve at a church on a permanent basis until:

- They are called to another church
- They resign
- They reach the age of retirement
- They are discharge under disciplinary action
- The congregation is dissolved by Presbytery
- The congregation merges with another congregation

RANDPARK RIDGE UNITED

As a United church governed by the above three denominations we have our own constitution under which the calling of ministers to serve this congregation is governed. Ministers are called as follows:

- Called for an initial 5 year period after approval of the call by the congregation at a congregational meeting.
- After the initial 5 years the congregation needs to vote on whether or not to extend the ministers call for a further period.
- In the event of a vacancy, a vacancy committee is established to call another minister who may be from any of the 3 denominations. Although it is customary to rotate between the denominations this is not a necessity and the best person for the job needs to be sourced.

Craig was called for an initial 5 year period which was extended at the 2016 AGM by a further 2 years which would end on 31 March 2018. As explained above, the congregation needs to vote on any further extension and as any changes, if any, take a long time to implement, a vote needs to be taken now.

I trust that the above explanation helps in your understanding of the process surrounding the calling of ministers to this congregation.

Yours in Christ

Angela Smith

Council Secretary