



*The Rock is a Youth
Ministry of Ascension
Lutheran Church*

Searching For A Pastor

Based on Mark 10:41-45 & John 21:15-17

**Susan
Phil
David
Dick
Don
Ben
Dan**

**Allee
Toby
Matt S.
Matt W.
Mattias
Michael
Joe**

**Dr. Neile
Pastor
Leader 1
Leader 2
Leader 3
Farmer
Judge 1
Judge 2
Judge 3
Burt
Jane
M. Michigan**

**Ryan (Suit Coat)
Zach (Robe)
Annee
Peri
Oliver
Ryan (Farmer Hat)
Annee (Score Card)
Peri (Score Card)
Oliver (Score Card)
Ryan (Suit Coat)
Peri (Beauty Pageant Hat)
Zach (Sash)**

Setting:

Call committee meeting around table where they brain storm on the best method to select a new pastor.

Annee:

The Youth Group appreciates how for the past nine years, Pastor John has encouraged us to participate in worship by doing monthly skits.

Peri:

Once a month, he's provided us with a sermon theme and a scriptural context..

August 17, 2008

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Annee: ...and then with all the patience and good humor he could muster, he silently watched as we sometimes matched and sometimes missed his thoughts with perplexing plots and parodies, and crazy costumes and characters, always putting a unique spin on his spiritual message.

Peri: So, we dedicate this skit to our favorite Pastor, John Anderson.

Voice off stage: Stumped by the task of finding a new pastor for Ascension that can measure up to Pastor Anderson, the Ascension Call Committee meets to debate the best approach.

David: So, are we all in agreement that there's no way we'll ever find anyone like Pastor John by merely interviewing candidates and listening to them preach? *(All shout in agreement.)*

Susan: Well, I think we just need to pray about it a little more...

Don: Susan, we've been praying for four months and people are starting to wonder if we're really doing anything.

Dan: I don't mean to be critical, but maybe we need to consider not starting each prayer with the petition, "Please, please don't let Pastor John retire."

David: You know, there's got to be lots of great ways to find a good pastor. Let's just brainstorm for 5 minutes on how to proceed.

Ben: I've got it: pHarmony!

Susan: The electronic dating website?

Ben: *(With computer.)* No, not eHarmony; it's pHarmony. The Pastoral matching website.

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Here, I'll project the pHarmony advertisement I have on my laptop, so you can all see how it works (*start eHarmony music*)...

Leader 1: (*With Clipboard & reading glasses.*) We tried to interview candidates...

Leader 2: (*With telephone in hand.*) work with our synod's leaders...

Leader 3: (*With Clipboard & pillow.*) even schedule candidates to come preach...

Leader 1: but nothing seemed to work.

Leader 2: That's when we tried pHarmony.

EPastor: I can't preach, I can't teach, I can't play disc golf, I don't know any Bill Gaither songs, and I don't even know what a hot-dish is, but they love me, they really love me!!!

Dr. Neil: Hi, I'm Dr. Neil Warren, founder of pHarmony.com. At pHarmony, we match congregations and pastors based on a 4-factor analysis: the size of your congregation, the size of your parsonage, the size of your pulpit, and the size of your bank account!

(Leaders & ePastor Swing Dancing together.)

Dr. Neil: Log on to pHarmony today and find out what our four factors can do for your congregation (*pHarmony music fades*).

Don: Call me old fashioned, but I don't think this looks like a God-pleasing method of choosing a Pastor.

Phil: You know, I think Don's right...

David: Hmm, something more old fashioned, huh? I've got it. What's more old fashion than trading cards!

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- Susan: Trading cards?
- Dan: You mean like baseball cards or football cards?
- David: Yeah, only now they've got Pastor Trading Cards. Really, they're the rage among kids Zach and Joe's age? *(Pulls cards out.)*
- Dan: Wow! Topps Pastor Trading Cards?
- David: I really prefer the Upper Deck brand, but they're a bit pricey.
- Dick: Hey, let me see those. *(Grabs a card from David.)* Hmm, wow, great action shot of Pastor John handing out the communion cups!
- David: Yeah, that's nothing, take a look at the statistics on the back of the cards!
- Dick: Hmm. Well, I understand height, weight, date of birth, hometown, and seminary, but what about all these statistical abbreviations?
- David: Like what?
- Dick: Oh, like B, CS, and SP?
- David: Baptisms, Communion Served, & Sermons Preached.
- Dick: How about W, L, and SV?
- David: Weddings, Funerals, and—the ultimate--Saves.
- Dick: Wow, look at this! He really has a high batting average!
- David: No, that's average sermon length.
- Dick: Oh, of course.
- Don: I don't get it? I'm a long time baseball fan, but

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I still don't see how Pastor Trading Cards can help us find a Pastor.

David: It's simple, we just go through all the pastor trading cards, compare the statistics and pick out the best pastor, the same way we picked out the best ball players when we were kids.

Dan: Hmm, we can do better than that. If you guys give me until about noon tomorrow, I can enter all these statistics into a computer simulation, and we can simulate exactly how each of the pastors would perform in all of the various pastoral capacities here at Ascension.

David: So moved? Second? All in favor?

Susan: I don't mean to be a stick in the mud, but I just don't think statistics alone can reflect how a pastor will perform here at Ascension.

Dick: Susan's right. None of these statistics speak to how many Hosta's he can water in an hour, or if he'll keep his office as neat and tidy as Pastor John did.

David: Phil, you look like you have an idea.

Phil: *(State Fair Music.)* Well, it is State Fair time. Maybe we can have every member bring their best pastoral candidate to the judging pavilion and the one who wins the blue ribbon becomes the new pastor. **(Farmer enters with ePastor, wearing a Blue Ribbon.)**

Dick: *(Olympics Music.)* I've been watching the Olympics. Maybe we could have all the candidates come in, perform four pastoral duties, and then have a team of international judges score them using a very subjective grading scale based on level of difficulty and performance. **(ePastor "finishes" sermon in Pulpit, closes Bible, does a somersault, and throws arms back; a team of judges hold up**

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numbers.)

- Ben: *(Looks at low card.)* Hmm..must be a Russian judge.
- Susan: I've got it! We could have a Minister America Pageant, hosted by Burt Parks. Imagine it with me: *(Miss America Music.)*
- Burt: Well, Minister Montana really stole the Vestments competition, didn't he, Jane.
- Jane: He sure did, Burt, and I can hardly wait to see him in the bathing suit competition. Hopefully Minister Minnesota will recover from that fall he took in the talent competition.
- Burt: Who would have thought he could balance an open Bible in his left hand while leaping all the way from the pulpit to the third pew to wake up the sleeping congregant, Jane?
- Jane: Our panel of congregational judges sure has their work cut out for them. Let's bring Minister Michigan out from our sound-proof Pastor's Study for the Questions God Has Answered Competition, Burt. *(Minister Michigan enters with sash.)*
- Burt: Minister Michigan, here is your question. Take your time, "Recent polls have indicated most Lutherans can't recite any of Luther's small catechism or locate Cheboygan, Michigan on a map of their hand. Why do you think this is?"
- M. Michigan: I personally believe that we as Lutherans are unable to do so because some-a people out there in our congregations don't have catechisms and I believe that our education such as South Dakota and Idaho, like, such as, and I believe they should--our education over here in Iowa--should help South Dakotans and Idahoans and the Norwegian Regions of Iowa so we will be able to build up our future...

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- Burt: Ah...yeah...Thank you, Minister Michigan.
- Phil: I have to be honest with you guys. All these scenarios have me a little concerned. They seem so superficial. How can we find a pastor who has a servant's heart?
- Don: Well, you know, even Jesus had to warn his disciples against superficial things.
- Susan: Yeah, remember how angry the disciples were at John and James when they asked Jesus if they could sit on his left or right?
- Don: Well, they weren't exhibiting a servant's heart, and Jesus recognized that. They were interested in what Jesus could do for them, not what they could do for Jesus or others.
- Ben: That's when he called all the disciples together and said "You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
- Phil: I think Jesus was telling his disciples how to exhibit true leadership in the church, and that's what we need to find in a pastor.
- Susan: Pastor John sure has that, but surely there are others out there too.
- Don: By contrast, remember how Jesus asked Peter if he loved him?
- Dan: Yeah, and he asked him three times, "Simon, do you love me? Feed my sheep."

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- Dick: Jesus never asked Peter if he loved the sheep. He asked if he love Him—Jesus. Then the measure of his love for Jesus was how he fed the sheep.
- Susan: So in finding a good pastor, it's not about having a guy that's earned ribbons, or medals, or won the Minister America Pageant...
- David: Or has all the best preaching stats...
- Ben: Or even is the perfect harmonious match for the congregation.
- Susan: It's finding a pastor who loves Jesus as measured by his servant's heart.
- Dan: Like Pastor John. May God make us so fortunate again.
- All: Amen.