**Conversations with Call Committee - Myth Buster**

**Myth:**  An organization outside of Holy Shepherd (i.e., the Rocky Mountain Synod) is dictating the decision to hire co-pastors

**Truth:** The transition team heard from members of the congregation that they wanted Holy Shepherd’s focus to remain the same. We struggled greatly with how to meet this need but also bring some growth to the church. The facts are simple - if we do not grow, we will not be here in the future.

During our fact finding, we discovered that Holy Shepherd is centrally located to many worthwhile community organizations. We felt strongly that Holy Shepherd is being called to have a stronger presence in the community. By providing meeting and office space and cooperating with these organizations to bring opportunities to serve, we could create space for the Holy Spirit to work through us and promote growth.

**We have two different objectives**: 1) Continuing to provide nurturing support for our congregation and 2) Provide an opportunity to grow through reaching out and serving the community. After much discussion and weighing various options, the transition team decided to recommend calling two pastors to meet these objectives. The co-pastor model allows for equity in responsibility and gives importance to both objectives for Holy Shepherd's future.

The transition team, with Council's support, came to this decision through careful deliberation based on all the things we heard from the congregation and the community. At no time during the transition period did we take suggestions from the Rocky Mountain Synod (or any other outside party) about this decision.  It just makes sense for us.  If we want things to remain the same, and also to grow (which is something different), we will need two pastors to successfully do that, with an arrangement that gives them both responsibility & accountability to the goals of our congregation.