**What is the difference between a Transition Team and a Call Committee?**

Those folks who have some history in Lutheran churches are probably familiar with call committees. Generally, within a few months after a pastor had left, the bishop’s staff would meet with church leadership and a local congregational call committee would be selected by the church council. The call committee, over a period of some months (or a year or more), would fill out paperwork, work with the synod staff, get names, do interviews, and eventually come to a decision to recommend a pastor’s name to the council and congregation for a call. This was a big task for a small group of people! And sometimes the decisions of this small group were not necessarily in harmony with the vision of the larger congregation—that is, there was a danger that they might work in isolation from the wider perspective of the body of Christ in the community.

During the past couple of years, the Rocky Mountain Synod Office of the Bishop has moved away from the above model. Now most congregations have an interim pastor called through synod council through a letter of agreement with the local congregation. Then that interim pastor (trained in the new process) begins to put together a Transition Team (appointed by the church council) to lead the congregation in a process of self-study and reflection *before* filling out the required paperwork and *before* a call committee is selected. *The Transition Team has the task to engage the whole church in a process of listening, reflection, and self-assessment before the “ministry site profile” (MSP)—a document shared with prospective pastors—is written up.*

During the weeks from late August through the beginning of October, the Transition Team will be leading "Discovery Sessions" (guided group or personal interviews) and receiving written comments from a broad cross-section of the Cross of Christ community. This is the time for input from all members and participants. We encourage your oral and written reflections!