

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

November 8, 2016

Attending:

Harris Atkins
Clarine Goodleaf
Dorothy Bennett
Dorene Johnson
Joe Lee
David Lutz
Renee Kroese

The November 8, 2016 meeting of the Staff Parish Relations Committee was set to discuss staffing issues for presentation to the Core Leadership Team at their upcoming meeting. Chairman Harris Atkins called the meeting to order and passed out a meeting agenda.

Pastor Brad was unable to attend because of illness, but, prior to the meeting, he sent committee members an email detailing his proposals and various options for staffing. The options included 1) a part-time pastoral care minister (to help offset Brad's responsibilities); 2) a full-time associate pastor (budget to be assisted by the Conference); 3) a part-time youth director to assist Jen and Brad in the growing youth ministry; 4) all of the above; 5) a part-time tech person.

After extensive discussion, the SPRC will propose to the CLT that we proceed with hiring a part-time pastoral care minister and a part-time youth minister, both of which positions are already mostly funded by the 2017 budget. This would get the ball rolling on finding some relief for Brad and Jen, both of whom are feeling overwhelmed with their responsibilities.

In addition, the SPRC will recommend that we look at getting a full-time associate pastor, perhaps in June 2017 when the Conference makes many changes in the district. This would be predicated on the Conference agreeing to fully fund this position for the first two years, and then decreasing the funding over the next two or three years. To work towards that end, Harris and David will collaborate on writing a proposal specifying the work responsibilities and qualifications for such a position, to be presented to the CLT and to the District Superintendent.

The SPRC decided to hold off on discussing the tech person position until after the CLT meeting.

David gave an update on the search for the traditional service music director. The committee received two applications, one of which has since been withdrawn. The second applicant, who appears to be well qualified, had a couple of questions re duties and schedules. After discussion, the SPRC's answers will be forwarded to the applicant. An interview and audition (spending time with the choir at a rehearsal) will be scheduled.

Both applicants said they were not interested in leading the bell choir. In the event that we hire the current applicant, the choirs will be split out between directors for both the chancel choir and the bells. The SPRC discussed the hours and salaries which would then be offered the leaders of the two choirs and would keep us within our budget.

In other business, Harris told the SPRC that the CLT and the Finance Committee are considering changing our finance year from June through May of each year, instead of the current calendar year. This is an issue which will be discussed at the CLT and which could have an impact on several programs (including staffing) with the church.

The bishop has sent us its annual request for information re Brad. Harris has already responded to the form, including the strong request that Pastor Brad be allowed to continue on here at AUMC. The SPRC approved his returning the form to the bishop.

After the CLT meeting on November 14, we will decide whether the SPRC needs to meet again in November. Harris reminded us that the Charge Conference is scheduled for November 28 and encouraged us to attend.

Submitted by Clarine Goodleaf