

Core Leadership Meeting, 10-16-2017

In attendance: Holy Spirit, Jean Harris, Melinda Lilley, Dorothy Beeman, Christian Hampson, Brad Beeman, Patty Ferguson, Laura Baumgartner, Bud Bennett, Joe Lee, Robbin Price

Laura opened the meeting with prayer.

New Business

Updates to Safe Church Policy: Jen looked at our safe church policy and noticed a few changes that are needed. It has been a long time since we looked at it, and our youth programs have grown and developed since then (thanks, Jen!), so it's no surprise that it needs updating. We need this document to be updated before the next Common Table on November 6.

Action Item: *Jen is planning to send us the updates sometime this week, and we'll vote by email. Please look for this in your inbox and respond promptly.*

Indoor and Outdoor Prayer Areas: Peter Narmita sent a proposal via email requesting we create indoor and outdoor prayer areas for people to use during the week. He suggested using the Family Room (Cry Room) for an indoor space and "a simple stone/paver covered structure with 3 walls" near the creek for an outside location. There was concern that the Family Room (I've always called it the Cry Room, but Peter's name is so much nicer) is too small to adapt in this way; we couldn't really add furniture or cabinets to store toys or devotional materials easily. We all agreed that it would be easier to offer people the use of the sanctuary, but there is concern about keeping the sound equipment safe. It was suggested that we find a way to cover and lock the sound equipment so that we can make the sanctuary more readily available for prayer. Laura will bring our preliminary comments back to Peter, and we'll move on from there.

Chinese Church Request: A Chinese Christian (nondenominational) church has asked to use one of our classrooms on Friday mornings for an ELL (conversational English) class. It would meet upstairs and would not impact the preschool or other groups using the church. We all agreed that this could be a great collaborative opportunity. Maybe some of our preschool parents could join the class if they wanted to.

Motion: *Christian moved that we invite the Chinese church to hold ELL classes in one of our upstairs classrooms on Friday mornings. The vote passed unanimously and enthusiastically.*

Common Table and Charge Conference: We will have a Common Table on Monday, November 6, at 7pm. At that time we will do some of the business of a Charge Conference. On Wednesday, December 13, we will have a joint Charge Conference with Bellevue First UMC and Saint Peter's UMC. The District Superintendent will also meet separately with each Staff Parish Committee for the three churches. He will probably meet with our SPR on Tuesday, December 12.

The Core Leadership team will meet before the Common Table on November 6 at 6pm to get ready for the meeting.

Brad will send an email to let Team Leaders know what information is needed from them before the November 6 and December 13 meetings.

Action Item: *Wendi will need your committee reports in time to assemble them into a booklet for the November 6 meeting. Please get your report in to Wendi before the end of this month, the earlier the better!*

Leadership Retreat: Joe suggested we have another leadership retreat in January. After some discussion, we decided to tentatively schedule it for Saturday, January 27, from 8:30-1pm, at the church. We plan to provide breakfast, although we didn't discuss the details of that yet. Joe asked that we send him suggestions for a theme. He wondered if we should talk about what a statement of inclusivity would look like, if we decided to create one.

Christian and Laura volunteered to develop some leadership activities for us during the retreat, and Brad would love to review expectations for each leadership role at AUMC. It was suggested that we not use the time to overfill the annual calendar with events and activities. We agreed that we should look at our top areas of concern and focus on doing a few things really well, rather than trying to do everything and overfilling our plate.

Action Item: *Prayerfully consider what the theme of our retreat should be and what we should focus on that day. Send any suggestions to Joe.*

Old Business

SPR Report: SPR will be meeting tomorrow night, and David Lutz wasn't in attendance, so there was no SPR report. Brad did present a list of 5 roles that he saw as imperative for the church that have remained unfilled for far too long. These include IT Coordinator for both the church and the preschool, Financial Development Coordinator, Marketing/Advertising/Analysis Coordinator, Facilities Coordinator, and Volunteer/Membership Coordinator. He asked us to consider whether we see these as priorities, and what we will do to fill them if we do.

Trustees Report: There was no Trustees Report.

Finance Report: We're a bit behind on income; Melinda is hoping folks will catch up. We're still looking at the response to the youth pledge card in September. We're also in the process of setting up an Amazon Smile account, which will allow folks to donate to Aldersgate every time they purchase something on Amazon.

Christian brought up employer contribution matching. Many employers can only match a gift if it doesn't go to proselytizing. Melinda suggested we needed a line item for this that would be a holding account to use for non-proselytizing activities, such as our Outreach work.

Parking Lot Ministry Research: This Saturday, Riverton Park UMC in Tukwila is having an open house, and Laura encouraged everyone to come. This church has a

huge social services ministry, and does a great deal for the homeless community. We are also having our Homeless program in collaboration with Newport Way Library next Tuesday, October 24, at 7pm. Both of these events are good opportunities to increase our knowledge as we move toward potentially having a parking lot homeless program.

Leadership Recruitment: Christian and Laura have been working diligently on filling volunteer positions. They've found someone for Trustees, SPR, and the Tech Team, and they are working on finding a safety person.

End of Life Planning Program: This has been cancelled for lack of interest. Instead, Laura is looking into having a movie in January that would introduce this topic to folks who might want to know more.

Weekend Backpack Meals: We have decided not to adopt a school; this is something that is currently beyond our capacity. We make a large donation to the program every year, and will continue to do so.

Harvest Dinner: Patty is planning the Harvest Dinner, and suggested we increase the voluntary donation. Currently it's \$5 per person and \$18 dollars maximum per family. The dinner is very well attended, but Patty wants to make sure we have enough money to cover the food purchased for the event.

Motion: *Christian motioned that we increase the suggested voluntary donation for the Harvest Dinner to \$6 per person and \$20 maximum per family. The motion passed unanimously.*

In Other News:

Jean reminded everyone that the Meaningful Movies series continues tomorrow night (Tuesday, October 17) at Saint Margaret's. She also mentioned that Saint Margaret's has a Jazz Compline service at 7pm on the second Sunday of the month. She recommends it highly.

Joe mentioned that EMBaRC, the team charged with leading the open discussion and investigation of whether the church wants to become part of Reconciling Ministries, met on Sunday for the first time. We will be placing a question box in the narthex that folks can use to submit any questions they have about Reconciling Ministries, the process we're embarking upon, or anything else. Joe will be creating this box. (He asked if it needed to be pretty, and said if so, he'd get Madeline to help. We're sure it will be great.)

Action Item: *Joe will create a box for questions about the EMBaRC project.*

Tom Breske will be organizing the Crossroads Thanksgiving Dinner, with help from Joe Lee. Anyone with questions or who wants to help out should contact Tom.

Laura said that we had two productive worship meetings earlier this month, one focused on first service, and one focused on second service. Some very good decisions were made regarding Advent. Because it's on a Sunday this year, we will

be having five services on Christmas Eve, our usual two in the morning, and our three Christmas Eve services at 5, 7, and 9pm.

We are also having a worship brainstorming meeting on Saturday, November 4, from 12 to 2pm, right after the CPR training. Everyone is welcome to attend. The meeting is designed to find out what worship activities are most meaningful, and how we can make sure the worship services on Sunday provide a truly spiritual experience for all. On December 5 at 7pm, the Worship Committee will meet again to discuss ideas from the brainstorming session and plan worship for the first few weeks of the new year.

Finally, Jean offered to talk to anyone who wants more information about the Walk to Emmaus program. She heartily recommends it, and says she found it a very valuable experience.

At this point, Brad closed us in prayer, and many folks moved into the sanctuary to attend the EMBaRC question and answer session.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Robbin Price. Errors and omissions are all mine, and corrections are cheerfully welcomed.

Summary of Motions:

Motion: *Christian moved that we invite the Chinese Church to hold ELL classes in one of our upstairs classrooms on Friday mornings. The vote passed unanimously and enthusiastically.*

Motion: *Christian motioned that we increase the suggested voluntary donation for the Harvest Dinner to \$6 per person and \$20 maximum per family. The motion passed unanimously.*

Summary of Action Items:

Action Item: *Jen is planning to send us updates to the safe church policy sometime this week, and we'll vote by email. Please look for this in your inbox and respond promptly.*

Action Item: *Wendi will need your committee reports in time to assemble them into a booklet for the November 6 meeting. Please get your report in to Wendi before the end of this month, the earlier the better!*

Action Item: *Prayerfully consider what the theme of our January retreat should be and what we should focus on that day. Send any suggestions to Joe.*

Action Item: *Joe will create a box for questions about the EMBaRC project.*

Next Meeting: Monday, November 6, CL meeting at 6pm, Common Table at 7pm.