

Core Leadership Minutes, May 15, 2017

In Attendance: Holy Spirit, Melinda Lilley, Joe Lee, Patty Ferguson, Linda Detering, Rich Detering, Steve Rummel, Jen Hoerber, Steve McKenzie, Brad Beeman, Jean Harris, Christian Hampson, Janice Zahn, Robbin Price, David Lutz

Jean opened the meeting in prayer.

Status Updates

Common Table: Common Table will be in June, but the date is in question. We had set it for Monday, June 19, but that is the International School graduation, and we're not sure that will be the right date for our new Assistant Pastor to attend. The alternative date we are considering is Monday, June 26.

Action Item: Joe will contact Laura and find out which date would be the best for her to attend.

Once we have a date we will promote it heavily. It will be a potluck picnic, weather permitting.

The agenda will consist of three items:

- Introducing Laura
- Sharing information about Annual Conference
- An update on finances and stewardship

We decided to limit it to these three large items, rather than try to squeeze in something else and end up without enough time to adequately cover things.

Reconciling Ministry

The question of how we should investigate and possibly become a reconciling ministry has been on the agenda for some time now, and we don't want to put it off any longer. We spent some time discussing it.

There were questions about what becoming a reconciling congregation entails. Reconciling Ministry recognizes that many are hurt by the way the Book of Discipline handles homosexuality. Becoming a reconciling congregation means acknowledging that we will be noncompliant with that portion of the Book of Discipline, and it sends up a flag that tells those around us that that is the kind of congregation we are.

There is a specifically worded description of Reconciling Ministry, which is an international standard that we would be accepting if we chose to become a reconciling congregation.

It was acknowledged that some folks are strong believers in the Book of Discipline, while others (even some life-long Methodists) feel less tied to it. We also discussed

how other churches have chosen to become reconciling congregations and how they handled it.

Motion: After some additional discussion, Christian moved that we begin the process of due diligence required to investigate becoming a Reconciling Ministry. The motion passed unanimously.

Joe, David, Christian, Jean, and Robbin volunteered to be on a committee to start working on this. It was also suggested that Katie and Colleen Ollerman be invited, since they are known to be interested in this topic and might want to be part of the process. The committee was charged with presenting Reconciling Ministry to the congregation and making sure we do our due diligence in deciding whether the church should move in this direction. We all agreed that the committee needed to be respectful and open to all viewpoints as we begin this conversation with the church at large.

Action Item: The committee will find a date for a meeting before the next Core Leadership meeting on June 19 and will come up with a plan of action.

Homelessness Task Force Update:

Janice shared that Dave Maybee had some ideas for the Homelessness Task Force, although he hasn't had time to really get started because of Kathy's recovery. Janice and Dave discussed possibly adopting a school and doing food backpacks for kids in need. Jean reminded us that there is money specifically allocated for a large homelessness project, and there was the suggestion that we do something for the men's shelter, which is currently at the Lincoln Center location.

It was also noted that if we do adopt a school for food backpacks that the project should be organized and run by congregation members and not staff.

Janice said that Dave was overseeing the meals we're providing for Congregations for the Homeless during the week of June 5. He is hoping to find folks interested in the taskforce among those helping with that project. Then the taskforce can develop some ideas and bring them back to Core Leadership for discussion and approval.

Stewardship and Finance Update:

Melinda reported that we have received 84 pledge cards of the 114 we typically get, and that we'll be sending friendly follow-up letters to the 30 folks who haven't gotten around to crossing it off the to-do list yet. According to Linda Reichenbach, we have \$282,000 in pledges, with another \$104,000 expected. This is a bit better than 2015, but we were reminded that that year we had the extra kitchen project, which affected giving to the general fund.

The budget for the 2017-2018 year is still a work in progress. We have \$513,000 in expected income, and a requested budget of \$563,000. Both numbers could change somewhat as things progress.

It was asked whether we should be asking the congregation for more funds. The proposed budget covers a summer youth ministry intern but not a continuing assistant youth ministry position. We also have about \$36,000 left to pay on the kitchen, but we have a year and a half to do that.

We agreed that it made sense to ask for money to support the assistant youth position when we have someone we want to hire, and we're not at that point yet.

Linda suggested that we have a fundraising dinner to help pay for the kitchen, something that we had discussed doing in the past but hadn't done.

There was general agreement that stewardship fit nicely into Lent.

Melinda also mentioned that she and Linda Reichenbach are coming to the ends of their terms as Finance Chair and Pledge Secretary (and many thanks for brilliant work!). They are both looking for good people to take those positions. Feel free to pray for a smooth transition, everybody!

(Jean suggested they just trade places, but alas, that would not provide the respite they both deserve. Maybe we could clone them?)

Melinda finished her update by saying that she'll continue working on the numbers and will have something to present at the Common Table in June.

AA Building Update:

Stan reported that the AA building is beginning to look pretty good. They've done a great job of sprucing it up, the roof has been fixed, and the gazebo is underway. Stan did request help this Wednesday morning, when he will be picking up the new (well, used, but like new) tables and chairs. The final project will be replacing the carpet, which "smells like an old gym," with new vinyl flooring. This should run \$400-\$600. They've also come up with a waterproof door. The old furniture is in pretty bad shape and will probably be going to the dump.

New Bulletin, Anyone?:

Jen passed around a possible new bulletin that Wendi had mocked up. A couple of months back we had discussed having a bulletin that included more news about church activities and groups as well as the order of worship. This new version would have less inserts and had a clean look, although the print was pretty small. We didn't discuss this further, but the humble secretary suggests we tuck it into next month's agenda so that it doesn't fall off the radar.

Family and Youth Ministries Update:

Jen reported that last year we had 82 children at Vacation Bible School, 10 of whom registered on the first day. By contrast, this year we already have 70 children registered on our website, which is great news.

One side note: apparently it is easy to accidentally bring up the wrong Aldersgate Church on Google, which might explain why a couple of our registrants live in

distant states. Jen has let those folks know exactly where we are, in case they didn't mean to drive their kids 3000 miles to VBS.

Jen also mentioned that there will be a preschool fundraiser on Saturday, June 3, with a bake sale and activities for kids. Leftover bake sale goodies will be sold at church on Sunday morning.

Jen set up the page for VBS on the website. Great job, Jen!

Other committee heads asked if they could get administrative privileges for their pages, and Brad pointed out that a family came at 11am on Mission Sunday expecting church, because the information they found at our website was incorrect. This underlined the urgent need for someone to step up and work to keep the website accurate and consistent.

In other news:

Accolades to the men's breakfast group on Sunday! Although Bud Bennett was out of commission, several new men jumped in to help. (It takes about three to replace Bud.)

Brad's Update:

We're seeing new families pledging, which is wonderful. It's unusual to see new families so invested.

Brad also asked for prayers as we move toward having an Assistant Pastor.

This ended the business portion of the meeting, and Brad closed us in prayer.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Robbin Price. Any omissions or additions are mine, and corrections are welcome.

Next Meeting: Monday, June 19, 7:00pm

Summary of Action Items:

- Joe will contact Laura and find out which Common Table date she can attend, June 19 or June 26.
- The Reconciling Ministry committee will find a date to meet before the next Core Leadership meeting on June 19 and will come up with a plan of action.

Summary of Motions:

- Christian moved that we begin the process of due diligence required to investigate becoming a Reconciling Ministry. The motion passed unanimously.