

Core Leadership Meeting, September 12, 2016

In attendance: Holy Spirit, Joe Lee, Brad Beeman, Jack Morrison, Jean Harris, Colleen Ollerman, Rick Wilson, Dorothy Beeman, Steve Rummel, Jen Hoerber, Stan McKenzie, Patty Ferguson, Harris Atkins, Rich Detering, Brad Brewer, Julie Flahiff, Janice Zahn, Robbin Price

Brad opened the meeting in prayer, and we sang “One Bread, One Body.” (Thank you, Joe! What a nice way to set the tone.)

Brad also introduced Joe Lee, who is taking over leadership of the committee. He accepted the position with the desire to get much of the administrative work of the church off of Brad’s shoulders so that he can focus on pastoral duties. Welcome, Joe!

First Service start time

Brad proposed that we change the first service start time from 8:50 to 9:00 am. There was some discussion about this. People pointed out that we need to make sure services end on time so that other Sunday morning church activities are not unduly impacted. We agreed that it is also important that children are sent to Sunday school at a consistent time so that the Sunday children’s programs can run smoothly. It was also mentioned that although the service should move along crisply, we must allow extra time on occasion when prayers run long or other needs come up. Our target time would be 60 to 65 minutes. It was also suggested that music for first service could start earlier than 9am, since many people enjoy it and it gets folks in the mood for worship, and the Worship Team can consider that.

Proposal: First Service Worship will officially start at 9:00 am. This proposal was passed unanimously.

Proposed change to One Board Governance

Brad presented the concept of One Board Governance, which we’ve been discussing for a while now. He has written a short summary of how it would function, which he handed out to the group. It included questions for us to prayerfully consider. We discussed what the board might look like, what components of church operations needed to be represented there, and how to include some of our enthusiastic youth on the board. It was agreed that communication will be key in a system like this.

Action Item: Read Brad’s summary carefully, then write up your answers to the questions and submit them to the Core Leadership team via email before next Monday’s Common Table (September 19).

In the course of discussion, Jean Harris mentioned that she has been representing the church as Lay Leader at conference events, because we don’t really have anyone in this position. We all agreed that Jean is doing an excellent job, and since she is willing to continue in this capacity, we’re happy to have her continue.

Budgets:

Budgets for next year are due to Melinda from all staff and team leaders. Immediately, if not sooner. And Jack says, “Think big!”

Sophia Way Emergency Shelter Proposal:

Janice presented the request from Sophia Way that we provide emergency shelter for approximately 20-25 women during the months of January, February, and March next spring. She had put together a packet of information that she made available to everyone, and there was discussion.

Someone asked why Saint Peter's, who has hosted the group in the past, is not continuing to host this year. The answer is that they are continuing. Sophia Way was fortunate this year to receive funding to do separate shelters for families and for single women, and Saint Peter's is taking on the sheltering of families (last year they did both).

It was suggested that if we partnered with Bellevue First United Methodist, which has a large facility, but might need more resources, that we could provide a more consistent shelter for the women; we agreed that this is something we could discuss with Bellevue First for the future.

Someone asked why the shelter is operated this way, and doesn't have a single space that they can use. The Women's Emergency Shelter is a relatively new service, which has only been in operation for 4 years. It serves women who are on the streets, most of them waiting to be vetted and brought into the main Sophia Way program, which is always full.

It was mentioned that 6 years ago we hosted a group of 10 women from Sophia Way on weekends, and that those in the church who promised to oversee and organize the program didn't follow through. It is clear that having the shelter here would have an impact on church programs and there would be problems to be resolved and logistics to be thought through carefully. Janice mentioned that Saint Peter's was a valuable source of information, and that they hadn't had any serious problems. She also said that we would have a contract with Sophia Way outlining exactly what our requirements and expectations are.

We all agreed that women need shelter, but that we have logistical issues that need careful consideration, and there are valid concerns that would need to be addressed. One important concern that was brought up was finding volunteers to help plan.

In the end, we agreed unanimously to back this proposal and take it to the Common Table meeting next Monday, where Janice will present it to the church body. We will also write up something for the bulletin this Sunday asking for volunteers to help with the project. And we'll work to get all concerns out on the table so that we can successfully address them.

Update on the Charge Conference:

This year the Charge Conference will take a different form. The District Superintendent wants to meet with church leaders individually and ask them about the church. In addition, Brad is proposing that we have a Common Table event in November as our Charge Conference, where we can both do the basic duties that are required and have some fun and celebrate. We need to find a date to do this, and it

doesn't necessarily have to be a Monday. There was concern that this event not negatively impact the Harvest Dinner.

Brad asked that we email Joe with suggested dates for a November Common Table. Joe responded that he'll email us.

Common Table:

Common Table will be next Monday, September 19, at 7:00pm in Friendship Hall. The following items are on the agenda:

Youth proposal for a permanent Frisbee golf course (see email attachment)
Update from Laura Wall (continue to pray for her as she navigates some challenges)
Common Table process
Charge Conference update (as described above)
Sophia Way Emergency Shelter
One Board Governance proposal

Preschool Update:

Dorothy reported that Aldersgate Christian Preschool is doing great. (Side note from the secretary: ask her to give you a tour; it's looking really awesome downstairs!)

Staff Parish Relations Update:

Harris reported that we already have a job posting for a new music director and that things are moving along.

A question arose about finding a Youth Director. Harris explained that we're holding off on filling that position so that the youth program, which is currently growing and thriving, isn't disrupted. The idea is to take our time and get the right person. We do have the position in the SRP budget request for next year.

It was suggested that until the position is filled, the money that is not being used this year for a youth director should be given to Jen, since she is putting in lots of extra work to build this program on top of her other duties. Harris will take this suggestion back to SPR.

We have a new facilities coordinator, Dave Carver. If you see him around the church, introduce yourself.

In other news:

The UMW conference event last weekend was successful, and the visiting women had nothing but positive things to say about our church.

We are in desperate need of at least three volunteers to help out this Saturday at the laity uprising event at the church. The event goes from 10am to 3pm, and the topic is homelessness. Anyone who can come and act as a host (serve coffee, etc.) is encouraged to step up. And it sounds like a very cool event, which is a perk, folks. **Let the church know right away if you can help out this Saturday.**

[Side note: if you've been seeing Joe's emails, you'll note that a plan to take care of the event on Saturday is underway, but I'm sure anyone who wants to volunteer and hasn't yet would still be welcome.]

And one last thing: if you know of anyone on the committee who isn't receiving these minutes, or if your email has changed, please help me make sure I have accurate contact information for all of you.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Robbin Price. Any errors or omissions are mine, and corrections, as always, are most welcome.