

## **Core Leadership Minutes, January 9, 2017 (Happy New Year!)**

**In Attendance:** Holy Spirit, Brad Beeman, Joe Lee, Steve Rummel, Christian Hampson, Melinda Lilley, Robbin Price, Dorothy Beeman, Linda Detering, Rich Detering, Colleen Olleman, Katie Olleman, Jean Harris, Patty Ferguson, and Janice Zahn (via phone from Washington, D.C.!)

Brad opened the meeting in prayer.

We checked in with everyone, and Dorothy reported that two families have joined the preschool and all the classes are now full.

Administrative Detail: Joe asked if Monday night is still the best time for us to meet. He requested that we think about this and get back to him.

**Action Item:** *Please respond to Joe with the time you think is best for our monthly meetings.*

Eastgate Men's Shelter and Homelessness Task Force Update: The city is still researching the shelter. This Thursday evening they will be having a meeting to look at the traffic analysis for the area, because there were concerns raised about how the shelter might impact traffic.

Joe asked if we had the letter of support that we were all going to sign. Janice thought she had sent it out, but will send it again.

Janice has also contacted Holy Cross Church (the church which is housing the women's emergency shelter) to ask if we could help them in any way. We haven't heard back yet.

The homelessness task force will be looking at finding a meeting date now that the holidays are over.

Worship PC Upgrade Update: Patty reported that Bill has all the necessary hardware and software to make the improvements needed and he hopes to be installing them within the next couple of weeks. Melinda assured us that the money was available to reimburse him for the purchases.

Budget Update: Melinda presented the draft budget for the next six months. The thirteenth month drive was effective, and with pledges and projections based on last year, we have a balanced budget.

Linda asked if we were planning to get training from the conference; Joe said that that idea has been postponed for now.

Someone asked if we were adequately paying Jen for the additional work she is doing until we hire a Youth Ministry assistant. Because we didn't want to make her official salary go up and down again when the position is filled, she is being paid in the form of bonuses. These will continue until someone is hired to assist her. There was a question about whether the Trustees fund is being deferred until July, when we will start our new budget year cycle. Melinda said that no, we had sufficient funds in donations and a holding fund for the Trustees.

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the proposed budget for the first half of 2017. It passed unanimously.

Colleen asked how we're doing on the Kitchen fund. Melinda said that we had some donations come in at the end of the year, but they're still being sorted out. Once that's done, she'll be able to give us clearer numbers on what we need to pay off our loan before 2019.

Stewardship Update: Jack Morrison has stepped down from his position as Stewardship campaign manager and we will be looking for someone else to fill his shoes (which will be hard, given the great job he has done!).

Divisiveness in the Church: We have recently had some rather serious conflicts among the church body, primarily based on political disagreements. We all agreed that this is a worrying trend, and that we need to do as much as we can to make everyone feel welcome.

The big question: can we discuss voting from a place of security rather than a place of blame?

It was pointed out that talking politics can be dangerous. Some people avoid talking politics all together. Many people pointed out that the political climate is more divided than they have ever seen it.

We agreed that the church has a role in the political world. We need to take a Christian stand on issues such as gun control and homelessness. It was pointed out that the church has a role in educating our congregation and the community around us about why we take the stands that we do.

Colleen said that a significant reminder is needed that the foundation of all discussion and argument is respect.

Brad mentioned that upcoming sermons will focus on this topic.

Core Leadership instructed Brad to communicate the importance of respectful interaction and acceptance to members of the congregation in whatever ways he sees fit. We support him and want all people at Aldersgate to feel accepted no matter what their political beliefs.

We also talked about the need to take acceptance beyond our doors and reach out to the community around us. Ideas included an Each One Reach One campaign.

**Action Item:** Brad proposed that Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> be mission Sunday. We would meet at the church for prayer, then go out to conduct mission projects both on and off our property. We would have T-shirts identifying us as members of Aldersgate. We would then gather at a single service the following week (April 30) to compare notes and share our experiences during our mission work. The committee supported this idea.

Faith Action Network: Janice shared information about the Faith Action Network (FAN), which is an advocacy network of churches and individuals that work on social justice issues. We have individuals at the church who are members, and we are already members of the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Committee.

**Motion:** Aldersgate UMC should become a full member of the Faith Action Network. This motion passed unanimously.

It was mentioned that February 9 will be a day of advocacy in Olympia for FAN, and people are encouraged to attend.

Vision Retreat: We briefly discussed the upcoming January 28 retreat. It will be from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and Patty offered to provide some breakfast (Thank you, Patty!). If you would like to help with this, please contact Patty.

Joe will send out an agenda in the next few days for everyone's consideration. We were encouraged to consider the great commission (which Christian helpfully read for us), and to consider how we can accomplish it and grow the Kingdom of God.

Katie suggested that we needed to focus on building a church that we are proud of and that people will want to attend. Everyone agreed that we want some practical solutions to come out of our retreat.

**Action Item:** *Please spend some serious time in prayer on January 27, in preparation for our retreat. Come prepared to roll up your sleeves and give serious consideration to what specific programs and actions we can accomplish to further God's goals for us.*

We were reminded that we cannot leave everything for the staff to do; we need to decide how we, the laity will accomplish the goals we decide upon on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

On a practical note, Melinda noted that we need a new Stewardship Chair, a new Finance Chair, and a new Pledge Membership Chair, and that we need to consider those positions on the 28<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Katie and Colleen distributed a suggestion for restructuring Core Leadership meetings to be more efficient; this is also something we will want to discuss at the retreat.

**Motion:** There was also a motion to move forward with Brad's Mission and Outreach Sunday plan for April 23, and to start looking for mission ideas. This was unanimously supported.

We ended with the words of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20) still ringing in our ears:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

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

**Next meeting:** Vision Retreat, Saturday, January 28, 8:30-12:30.

#### **Summary of meeting motions:**

A motion was made to approve the proposed budget for the first half of 2017. It passed unanimously.

A motion was made for Aldersgate UMC to become a full member of the Faith Action Network. This motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to move forward with Brad's Mission and Outreach Sunday plan for April 23, and to start looking for mission ideas. This was unanimously supported.

#### **Summary of action items:**

*Please respond to Joe with the time you think is best for our monthly meetings.*

*Brad proposed that Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> be Mission and Service Sunday. Consider what mission work we might include and how we can plan to make this go smoothly. We will consider further at the vision retreat.*

*Please spend some serious time in prayer on January 27, in preparation for our retreat. Come prepared to roll up your sleeves and give serious consideration to what specific programs and actions we can accomplish to further God's goals for us.*