

Core Leadership Meeting, March 18, 2019

In attendance: Joe Lee, Peter Namita, Jean Harris, Laura Baumgartner, Patty Ferguson, Rich Detering, Linda Detering, Jen Hoerber, Robbin Price, Steve Rummel, Jim Phillips, Dorothy Beeman

We checked in with each other, and then Laura started the meeting in prayer.

Old Business

Snow Plow Update: The Lower parking lot was cleared by a contractor that Tom Breske knew so that the preschool would have the option of opening on Thursday morning during the big snow week. The contractor did three hours of work on Wednesday evening. The next day the upper lot was plowed. The total cost for plowing was \$1100. The preschool paid \$600 of the plowing costs, with the church picking up the remainder.

Trustees: Maintenance Update: We don't yet have a list of upgrades and maintenance that might be coming up in the near future. We do, however, have a beautiful newly painted hallway. Many thanks go to Marta Brown and Ted Snyder for their hard work on this project.

Recruiting Update: We're still looking for a facilities coordinator. We are posting the position in all the appropriate places, and we will continue the search.

Stewardship: The Stewardship Task Force includes Jim Phillips, Melinda Lilley, Hal Prow, Steve Briggs, Laura Baumgartner, and Joe Lee. They have come up with a proposed plan for stewardship this year, which Laura and Jim described, since Melinda was unable to attend the Core Leadership meeting. We are looking at a mini-stewardship campaign in the spring, to cover the last six months of 2019. They proposed making the focus of this campaign: Who We Are, emphasizing our staff and the great work they do, and encouraging folks to continue giving to support the church for 2019. In the fall, the campaign would be focused on Who We want to Become, with a focus on programs, facilities, and the many things we want to do moving forward. That campaign will be focused on 2020, when our fiscal year goes back to matching the calendar year.

The spring campaign will include stewardship moments during the services starting right after Easter, and a pledge letter will be sent out on May 3. Pledge Sunday will be May 19.

It was also proposed that we remove the Kitchen donation line from the pledge card. The kitchen loan has been paid off, although because of the unexpected extra costs associated with the stove hood, we fell about \$15,000 short in donations to cover the cost. We believe we could possibly cover the \$15,000 with money from a building reserve fund, but in any case, we will continue accepting kitchen pledges to replace the extra money we needed to pay off the loan. (So if you have pledged money for the kitchen, please do send it in!)

It was suggested that we look into having an online pledge card, or a pledge card online that folks could print off and use. The Stewardship Task Force can certainly consider these ideas moving forward.

Core Leadership endorsed the Stewardship Task Force proposal.

Tech Team Update: Peter has been working very hard to resolve tech issues and currently the church technology is back to normal. He did recommend that if anyone is using Google Chrome, they should make sure they have updated it, since attacks on it are increasing. He also recommended virus protection software.

Now that we have everything running smoothly, the Tech Team is looking toward the future. They are exploring possibilities for replacing CenturyLink as our provider, and have other ideas for making use of the newest technological advances. Right now they are still accumulating information, including input from staff and other church technology users. If you have questions or concerns, you can contact Peter. When they have all the information they need, they will present a detailed proposal for moving forward.

We all expressed our thanks for the many hours Peter has put in to our technology needs. He has done a tremendous job!

Staff Parish Relations: Because Peter is putting so much energy into the technology at the church (and we know computers are like toddlers, always demanding attention), Joe has volunteered to take over chairing the Staff Parish Task Force. This task force will be looking at some important SPR issues that will need to be part of the next budget, including staff COLA increases, making sure compensation matches work done by staff, and other confidential matters. After some discussion, a motion was made:

Motion: That Joe Lee be made chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Task Force.

After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

We had a short side discussion about finding volunteers at the church. It was pointed out that there are folks who are willing to volunteer, but it is important to get to know them and match their passion to the right opportunity.

Lay Representatives at Annual Conference: Jean Harris is unable to act as lay representative at Annual Conference this year, and Linda Detering has volunteered to take her place. This required a vote by the leadership.

Motion: That Linda Detering replace Jean Harris as a lay representative at Annual Conference.

The motion passed unanimously. Dorothy Beeman will continue as our second lay representative.

Considering Reconciling Ministries Update: Laura presented the proposal from the CRC Team, based on the survey they conducted earlier this year. They recommend having the vote on whether to become a Reconciling Ministry on Sunday, April 7. The plan would be to have one service at 10am that day, and to have the vote at the end of the service.

There would be three meetings prior to the April 7 service for folks who want to ask questions, discuss the issues, or just find out more about the vote and what it means. These will be held on Wednesday, March 27, at 10am and also at 7pm, and on Tuesday, April 2, at 7pm. There will be handouts available at these meetings as well, which will provide useful information and answer frequently asked questions.

The team also worked out a very inclusive list of who would be eligible to vote, which includes church members, regular church attendees, even if they are nonmembers, those who support the church with their finances and their time, members and regular attenders that are home or hospital bound, youth over 13 who are active in the church, and youth away at college who have not transferred their membership elsewhere. A complete list of who is eligible to vote is available from Laura.

The CRC Team recommended that a vote of 70% in favor be necessary for us to become a Reconciling Ministry.

There was much passionate discussion about this proposal. Many were concerned that the vote was coming up too fast, and that it might be hard to let everyone know about it in time. There was fear that some people might be unintentionally left out, and we want to make sure that everyone who wants to vote can do so. There was a worry that someone quite new to the church might get to vote, even if they had no real affiliation to the church. Others were concerned because they will be out of town during the week of the discussion and vote.

Laura reassured us that every effort would be made to get ballots to those who will be out of town, and that ballots mailed and received before April 7 would be counted. It was also pointed out that since the decisions made at the Conference in St. Louis, our silence on the question is both painful and problematic. As a church, it seemed important to several of us that we be able to state where we stand.

Eventually, a motion was made.

Motion: That the proposal by the CRC Team be accepted.

At this point an amendment was proposed.

Amendment: That the proposal be accepted with the condition that every effort is made to reach as much of the Aldersgate community as possible, including a print mailing and a mass email.

The amendment passed with ten in favor and two opposed. The motion then passed with 10 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstaining.

The meeting then ended in prayers for Laura who was due to have pastoral interviews on Tuesday. Many blessings on you, Laura, and we hope they went well!

These minutes respectfully submitted by Robbin Price. All errors and omissions are mine, and corrections are gratefully and cheerfully accepted.

Summary of Motions:

Motion: That Joe Lee be made chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Task Force.
The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That Linda Detering replace Jean Harris as a lay representative at Annual Conference.
The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That the proposal by the CRC Team regarding the vote on becoming a Reconciling Ministry be accepted.

Amendment: That the proposal be accepted with the condition that every effort is made to reach as much of the Aldersgate community as possible, including a print mailing and a mass email.

The amendment passed with ten in favor and two opposed. The motion then passed with 10 in favor, 1 opposed, and 1 abstaining.

Date of Reconciling Vote:

Sunday, April 7

Reconciling Information and Discussion Meetings:

Tuesday, April 2, 7pm

Wednesday, March 27, 10am

Wednesday, March 27, 7pm

Next Core Leadership Meeting: Monday, April 15, 7pm