

## **CRC Meeting Notes**

### **3/17/19**

In attendance: Flo Monkman, Ann Young, Richard Young, Jean Harris, Pastor Brad Beeman, Monica Luedke, Andy Luedke, Pastor Laura Baumgartner, Kristin Thorsness

- I. We reviewed Pastor Brad's proposal to move Aldersgate UMC toward a vote on whether to become members of the Reconciling Ministries Network by April 7, 2019.
  - A. The ballots would be available from April 2-7. All votes must be submitted by April 7 to be counted during worship.
    1. Laura will invite ecumenical neighbors to worship with us on April 7 and count votes.
    2. Kristin will ask Fairwood UMC for a copy of their ballot and make a draft for our review for use at Aldersgate.
    3. Our ballot will say at the top, "If you consider Aldersgate United Methodist to be your church home and therefore have a vested interest in this important issue, please vote your conscience below."
    4. Ballots will be numbered and printed on colored paper to discourage duplicating ballots.
      - a. Ballots will be available for pick up at church, delivered by pastors, and/or mailed.
      - b. We did not decide on who will distribute the ballots.
    5. Ballots will be collected during worship on April 7 or can be mailed in or dropped off at the church prior to April 7. We did not decide who will collect ballots and keep them confidential and secure.
  - B. The voting process
    1. Those eligible to vote will be:
      - a. Church members who attend (we didn't decide what frequency, but we talked about options from an average of once a month to at least once in the last 3 years, I think)
      - b. Anyone who gives financially to the ministries of Aldersgate
      - c. Anyone who gives of their time to the ministries of Aldersgate
      - d. Members who are home or hospital bound
      - e. Youth in 6<sup>th</sup> grade or older who are either active in the Aldersgate youth group or in some other ministry of Aldersgate UMC
      - f. College students who were active in ministries at Aldersgate and have not transferred their membership elsewhere
      - g. Active participants, defined as those who self-report on their attendance register that they are active participants (to be used only in cases where there is a question and none of the other criteria apply) as opposed to visitors.
    2. The decision to join RMN will be considered to pass if it receives a 70% majority.

- II. To be ready for a vote on April 7, there will be three gatherings to engage congregation members in dialog and answer questions.
  - A. Pastor Brad will lead two sessions on March 27.
    - 1. 10am
    - 2. 7pm
  - B. Pastor Laura and Joe Lee will host a Common Table event on April 2.
  - C. The agenda for these meetings will be mostly to review the history of what CRC has done, what happened at GC19, and to answer questions.
    - 1. Monica is creating a handout that will have on one side the history of CRC activities since Fall 2017 and on the other side it will have a summary of what it means to join RMN.
    - 2. We will also have the FAQ (frequently asked questions) sheet that we created and published in November 2017 available.
    - 3. We also have a brochure created by RMN we can make available.
    - 4. These handouts can also be made available by enews and in the Narthex on Sunday March 31 as well as at the three meetings.
    - 5. The new handout that Monica is creating will also be a bulletin insert on March 31 and April 7.
- III. The order of worship on April 7 at 10:00 am will be:
  - A. Open with regular worship stuff- up to the pastors
    - 1. introduce our ecumenical neighbors who will count
    - 2. Make it clear to visitors what is going to happen
    - 3. Warn people this is going to be a service that lasts more than an hour
  - B. Vote- either here or after sermon
  - C. Sermon from Pastor Terri, not about RMN, but not hiding that she is on the board
    - 1. Laura will talk to Terri and make sure she is ok with this plan
    - 2. The subject of the sermon in the works is justice
    - 3. During or after the sermon (choice to be made by the pastors), our counters will count votes.
  - D. If we haven't yet, Vote, Sing Hymns until we are ready, then Announce results
  - E. Communion- group was very clear that communion happens after vote results are announced, not during counting.
  - F. Benediction
  - G. Send email to congregation with vote results for those who couldn't be present.