

## **Core Leadership Meeting, December 12, 2016**

**In Attendance:** Holy Spirit, Christian Hampson, Linda Detering, Rich Detering, Melinda Lilley, Dorothy Beeman, Katie Olleman, Jean Harris, Joe Lee, Dave Maybee, Jen Hoerber, Robbin Price, Colleen Olleman, Janice Zahn, Patty Ferguson,

Melinda opened the meeting in prayer.

### Software upgrade and New Worship PC

This item was tabled until January, but we know Bill Ferguson is working on it.

### 2017 Budget

Melinda presented the proposed January to June budget that will shift us to our new July to June budget year. Finance proposes we plan to extend the current 2016 budget until June.

It was asked whether we could still provide staff pay increases starting in January. Melinda pointed out that since we have unfilled staff positions, this seemed doable, but SPR meets tomorrow (Tuesday, December 13), and SPR and Finance would have to figure this out. We still are looking at a deficit this year (\$22,000), and we're waiting for the 13<sup>th</sup> month responses to come in to have a better sense of where we really are financially going into next year. We are also still looking for more pledges to finish off the kitchen financing, but we have until March of 2019 to do this.

Joe mentioned that a member of the congregation suggested replacing the library with a nice accessible bathroom for those with mobility issues. It would also put a bathroom near Friendship Hall, so that visiting groups wouldn't have to go a mile out of their way and through a potentially locked door to get to the bathroom. There was some expression of dismay at the idea of losing the library (especially from the librarians in the group). It was also proposed that we could put a bathroom into Friendship Hall to the left of the kitchen. Everyone seems to agree that we need to work on providing more bathrooms and possibly even showers.

Someone pointed out that it is good to be proactive on improvements, rather than waiting until the need is desperate and many expensive things need to be done at once.

It was suggested that the bathroom project is a significant remodel and should be one of the discussion items at our January retreat.

### Eastside Men's Shelter

Janice Zahn reported on the City Council meeting where the Eastside Men's Shelter was discussed. Three people spoke for the shelter (including Jack Morrison), and three spoke against. She mentioned that the city provided a lot of data and history. We have, in fact, had a men's shelter for some time now, and it was located over at the Safeway warehouse area. However, it was bumped by the Sound Transit project.

Then it was moved over near Chick-Fil-A, but now it is being bumped because of the light rail project. The Eastgate site would use county land, be near social services (Public Health, Eastgate Park and Ride), would have a night shelter for 100 men, as well as a day shelter, and 60 units of housing on the upper floors, managed by Imagine Housing.

Janice said a large room was used for the city council meeting, and it was full. Many Eastgate community members are concerned about the safety of having a low-barrier shelter nearby.

One argument made for a low barrier shelter is that it allows shelter workers to build relationships with the men after they enter and makes it easier to convince them to get the services and help they need. A high barrier shelter makes this more difficult.

Also presented at the council meeting was a map of where homeless men are currently camping around Bellevue. The homeless are already here, and they need services and help.

Data was also provided about the makeup of the homeless men in our area; 54% of them are from Bellevue, and about 30% are from other eastside cities. It came up at the meeting that some of them are Bellevue College students, who may be living in their cars or couch surfing with friends.

From now until February, the council will be studying crime levels, examining Eastgate code amendments, and looking at how the building would impact traffic.

The church can support the shelter in a couple of ways. First, Janice will be sending out a draft letter of support for the Core Leadership to sign in the next couple of days, and we should get it out by early January. She'll also send the link to the data on homelessness from the City.

**ACTION ITEM: Review the letter that Janice is sending and respond with your approval and comments by January 9 via email.**

A second way to support shelter activities is to go online and sign up to bring meals to the current men's shelter location, as well as the Emergency Women's Shelter that was going to be at our church. The latter is now at a site with a better location, but with a smaller, less active church community, and they would welcome our help. We agreed that our Homelessness Task Force could help to organize these efforts, and then present them at Common Table to engage the larger church community.

#### Stewardship

Everyone agreed that Jack did a good job on Sunday. Since he was unable to attend this meeting, more discussion of Stewardship was postponed until the January meeting.

### Aldersgate's new staff plans

This item was also tabled until January, since we didn't have a representative from Staff Parish Relations to address it.

### ~~Vision Retreat Strategic Planning Retreat Vision Implementation Retreat~~ Getting Together and Getting Things Planned to Continue the Pursuit of Our Vision and Moving in the Right Direction Retreat

The Core Leadership Retreat is currently planned for Saturday, January 28, exact timing and location to be announced. Unfortunately, January 28 is also the day of District Training for Lay Leaders, but it seemed to be the day when the most Core Leadership members were available for a retreat. Jean Harris will once again represent us at the district training, and share with us what she learns there (thank you, Jean!). Katie also knows a couple of youth that might be interested in going to the district training.

We discussed in general terms what we want to cover at the retreat. It was pointed out that we have a tendency to focus on one thing, move in that direction, then find another shiny thing that we want to do and change directions. Perhaps not the best way to move forward.

There was a general feeling that we should develop a focus that:

- fits our vision
- engages the congregation and gives them ownership,
- includes concrete, actionable, measurable ideas, and
- fits into the four pillars of our vision (faith, love, health, and service).

We should also take time at the retreat to consider our move toward One-Board Governance and how we want that to work.

Jean Harris pointed out that we have vision but we need verbs. Faith, Love, Health, and Service are great, but what actions are we taking to make them happen?

We're looking for follow-through, implementation plans, and measurable goals. We want to grow the church, and we want to make those who are already here feel invested and connected.

It was clear that we won't run out of things to consider on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Joe will draft an agenda and send it out in a few days.

**ACTION ITEM: Take a look at the agenda that Joe sends out and give him your feedback and suggestions before the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

On a logistical note, we decided that a half-day retreat was all we could manage for now. It should include breakfast and socializing, as well as 3 or 4 hours tackling the very big issues mentioned above, as well as the first item listed below:

#### New Business: Church Master Calendar

Jen suggested that we create a master calendar of all our church events for 2017. This would provide us with a way to see what we're planning and how all the things we do fit together. It would show us where we could add new events without getting in the way of old traditions and would give us a way to see if all the things we're doing are adequately meeting the needs of our vision. Jean mentioned that we should add this to our retreat, and to remember that the laity should be running the business and activities of the church and not expecting the staff to do everything.

We were also reminded that there is a calendar on our new website, and that Wendi Brick is the keeper of this calendar. If any group needs something put on the website calendar, they need to contact Wendi.

#### New Business: Faith Action Network

Janice asked if Aldersgate should join the Faith Action Network, a group of over 100 churches that work on social advocacy. We will discuss this in more detail at our January meeting, when we have more time.

Joe ended the meeting with prayer.

These minutes humbly submitted by Robbin Price. Any errors or significant omissions are mine (yes, the insignificant omissions are mine, too), and corrections are gratefully accepted.

#### **Summary of Proposals and Action Items:**

There were no proposals voted on at this meeting.

#### **Action Items:**

- Review the letter supporting the Eastgate men's shelter that Janice is sending and respond with your approval and/or comments by January 9 via email.
- Take a look at the Core Leadership retreat agenda that Joe sends out and give him your feedback and suggestions before the January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.