

## **Core Leadership Meeting, September 18, 2017**

**In Attendance:** Holy Spirit, Katie Olleman, Steve Rummel, Laura Baumgartner, Jean Harris, Joe Lee, Tom Breske, Brad Beeman, Rich Detering, Linda Detering, Dorothy Beeman, Christian Hampson, Robbin Price, David Lutz, Janice Zahn

Homeless Parking Program: Brad checked into the Lake Washington program, and looked at another couple of programs, too. Lake Washington does a lot, especially for the mothers and children who are there. Some have been there for 3 years. They open their building so that the parkers can use their kitchen and bathrooms. Programs seem to register the vehicles that come and give specific permission for them to stay. Clearly, just letting anyone in could be a safety issue. However, someone mentioned that the program had started small, with just a few parkers and no other amenities than a safe space.

Jean mentioned that she thought the Lake Washington program was only for night parking, and it was pointed out that our parking lot gets so much use during the day that we would need to offer a night parking only situation. Someone pointed out how hard it is to repark an RV every day. Also, some might be in disrepair, or want sewer or electric hookups.

We keep getting requests from folks, mostly people living in RVs. There are so few places for them to go! It was also pointed out that it would be great if we could connect folks to social services; living in a car should be a very temporary fix.

We agreed that key to doing any of this is having a project leader who would spearhead it, and volunteers willing to help out, and that is difficult right now. We don't seem to have the body of enthusiasm that we had last year when the Women's Winter Emergency Shelter approached us.

Janice mentioned that the church near her has a parking program, and an outside group in Kent does the vetting. They don't offer the use of their building. She will connect with them to find out who does their vetting.

Someone pointed out that the KCLS program on Homelessness on October 24 would be a good time to get volunteers to sign up to help with this.

**ACTION ITEM:** *We will offer a volunteer sign-up opportunity at the KCLS program on October 24.*

Youth Assistant Position: Staff Parish Relations (SPR) meets tomorrow evening, and David says he'll have more information to share after that. So far, we've had two potential candidates, but it seems that one is not the right fit, and another has bowed out to pursue other opportunities.

Leadership Recruitment: Christian and Laura met and a message has been sent to a targeted group of people who might be interested in being on the SPR team. This was seen as a first priority, because several members of this team are cycling off.

It was pointed out that we also need a Finance Secretary, a Safety Officer, and a Finance Chair. These positions will be tackled next. Brad has a possible idea for a Finance Secretary.

Keeping the Church Healthy: It was pointed out that several folks have recently left the church, and this started a discussion about how we are (or aren't) meeting the needs of our brothers and sisters. Some reasons that folks leave were brought up:

- Divisive language or topics can cause folks to leave.
- Empty nesters might stop coming because they've brought up their kids in the church and then feel as if they are done.
- There is a programming gap for young adults after youth group and for empty nesters, too. Katie's doing great things for YAs, but what are we doing for the 40-60-year olds?
- Folks feel frustrated when they don't feel supported when they have ideas or needs.
- Some folks feel a lack of connection to a group in the church.

Brad mentioned reasons for hope; our preschool connection is strengthening, and our mission and vision help define us for those looking for a church. But he pointed out that we're not very invitational. And with the massive changes in the makeup of the neighborhood, we aren't reaching out to our neighbors as well as we could.

It was suggested that we partner with other groups and build things together. It was also suggested that we pair people up (or triple people up--there should be a word for that) to work on ideas together. Laura is great at greeting people and brings needed energy to the church. She will be focusing some of her energy on the need for leadership in the laity.

We all agreed that relationships need to be nurtured and folks who find their small community tend to stay.

Linda pointed out that we used to have a Care Team that did a great job of reaching out to our shut-ins and other folks on the fringes of the church. But it fell apart when Laura Wall left and we no longer have leadership for it.

**ACTION ITEM:** *Christian asked for a list of people who were on the Care Team, and said he will work to find a leader who can revive it.*

Two possible misperceptions were brought up that might be a problem. One was that folks might think there is some gatekeeper that they need approval from before

they act on an idea, and that's not always true. Also, some might think they just need to bring an idea to the pastor or Core Leadership, and then someone else will make it happen. That one is definitely not true.

Crossroads Thanksgiving Dinner: Tom Breske and Joe Lee have generously offered to organize the Thanksgiving Dinner this year. We serve about 350 people, bringing turkeys (which we farm out to local assisted living facilities to be cooked), potatoes, and vegetables, and providing carvers and greeters. Linda Reichenbach has created a detailed step-by-step plan for doing this (thank you, Linda!), and Tom and Joe will use that to get us organized this year.

**ACTION ITEM:** *If Tom or Joe asks you to do anything to help, say yes!*

EMbaRC (Reconciling Ministries Exploration): After Joe's presentation on Sunday, four folks from first service and two from second service approached him about being part of the team. Joe believes we should move slowly, with a small group taking small steps as we explore the topic, and we all agreed.

Charge Conference: There will be a cluster Charge Conference of the three Methodist churches in Bellevue on December 12, 13, or 14. The date has yet to be finalized.

Meaningful Movies: Meaningful Movies continues on Tuesday, September 19, with a film about the power of music, especially its impact on people suffering from dementia. We continue to support this great program that takes place on the third Tuesday of each month at our neighbor down the street, Saint Margaret's.

Laura closed the meeting in prayer.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Robbin Price. As always, any omissions or misstatements are mine, and corrections are sincerely welcome.

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 16, 7:00 p.m.**

## **Summary of Motions and Action Items**

### **Motions**

None.

### **Action Items**

*We will offer a volunteer sign-up opportunity (for those who want to work on a homeless parking ministry) at the KCLS program on October 24.*

*Christian asked for a list of people who were on the Care Team, and said he will work to find a leader who can revive it.*

*If Tom or Joe asks you to help with the Thanksgiving dinner at Crossroads, say yes!*