

Core Leadership Meeting, 5-21-2018

In attendance: Joe Lee, Steve Rummel, Patty Ferguson, Melinda Lilley, Robbin Price, Christian Hampson, Rich Detering, Linda Detering, Laura Baumgartner, Brad Beeman, Dorothy Beeman

Just before we began, Linda shared that her women's study group is reading *A Credible Witness*, a book which focuses on building community in a church and inviting the local community in. Sounds like a good read!

Brad opened the meeting in prayer.

Proposed meeting time adjustment:

Brad proposed that we start Core Leadership meetings promptly at 7:00pm and end at 8:30pm. After some discussion, the following motion was made:

Motion: Core Leadership meetings will start at 7:00pm and end at 8:30pm, with time allocated to each item in the agenda by the chair. If items start to extend beyond the allotted time, a decision will be made whether to end the discussion, table the item, continue to work on it by email, or take whatever action is deemed appropriate. The motion passed unanimously.

Brad's Sabbatical Report, part 1:

Brad started by answering some questions about his sabbatical. Brad spent time looking at scripture, then did some personal reflection. He followed this with a lot of research (among other things, he contacted over 20 pastors and other leaders and asked a great many questions) and then worked to synthesize all that he had learned.

He affirmed that he has come back with a new look at ministry and how to grow and spiritually deepen the church. He has identified 27 risk factors in 3 areas that are of concern to churches (not all of them applicable to Aldersgate), and thinks that looking at these might be of use to many churches seeking to be more sustainable.

He also found many ideas that would specifically help Aldersgate, and he expects to share these over time. He mentioned a need for courage as we seek our way forward.

But Brad wanted to start by looking at some of the things at Aldersgate worth celebrating. He had a long list of these, including:

- There is a tangible presence of the Holy Spirit at Aldersgate. He sees it in the peace and relationships here and throughout the church.
- We do reach out to the greater community.
- We love to have fun, including on Sunday morning!
- There is a feeling of safety here that allows people to disagree and remain friends.
- We are willing to make shifts if we understand why we need to do so.
- We work hard to welcome and nurture families and children here.

- We are welcoming.
- Earnest, heartfelt Prayer is a priority here.
- We support congregation members in need.
- We are willing to challenge our pastors rather than follow blindly.
- We consistently support the greater United Methodist Church.
- The District Superintendent sees us as an anchor church.
- We are mission-minded and seek to help the poor and needy.
- We offer our talents to glorify God, and the praise band, choir, bell choir, and other instrumentalists are examples of this.
- We are good stewards of our land and share it with the community around us.
- First and foremost, Aldersgate is filled with really good people who want to do the right thing. We don't have large negative factions here.

We have a lot to celebrate here! With all of these strengths, we should be able to muster the courage and energy needed to improve and move forward.

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness):

NAMI would like to offer a spiritual support group for mentally ill people or a family support group for family members of mentally ill people two nights per month in one of our rooms. (They don't care which room, but one with adult furniture would be nice.) Someone in the congregation would serve as host, ideally someone who might find the group personally useful and could also help with logistics ("Hey, where are your bathrooms?")

Dorothy has already communicated with NAMI about concerns the preschool families might have. NAMI also did a presentation after church a few weeks ago about their work, and the congregation members who were there were asked for their thoughts at that time.

After some discussion, a motion was made.

Motion: That we offer 2 nights a month to NAMI for a spiritual or family support group, as they deem needed. The motion passed unanimously.

NAMI will be asked to fill out a building use form. They will not be charged a fee, since they are a nonprofit.

Visiting California Youth Group:

A youth group from Anaheim UMC will be staying at our church on Saturday, June 30, and Laura asked for help providing dinner and breakfast for them. She estimates that there will be about 25 people, possibly less, including chaperones. We agreed that we could support this effort.

Action Item: If you can help with food on June 30, please contact Laura.

Nursery Staff Search Committee:

Jen, Dorothy, and Laura are currently the search committee for a new nursery staff person for Sunday mornings. They could use help in the search for possible

candidates, so please let them know if you are able to lend a hand. So far we have no candidates. Jen has organized the youth to staff the nursery until we can find a new staff person.

Action Item: *If you can help on the Nursery Staff Search Committee, let Jen, Dorothy, or Laura know.*

Pledge Drive Update:

Melinda reported that so far this year we have 54 pledges in, as compared to 90 by this time last year. It remains a work in progress. As always, we'll be reminding people to get their pledges in and trying to make sure we are conservative with spending so that we can have a balanced budget. The Finance Committee will be meeting next week to come up with recommendations, which will then come back to Core Leadership. Currently we're looking at a deficit, but it ain't over till it's over, folks.

Brad pointed out that we have 7 new pledges this year, and 17 increased pledges. We've lost a few pledges to folks moving, but we only lost 2 to local transfers, and we only had three folks reduce their pledges.

Joe asked if we have the increases in staff funding that we agreed upon in our role as Staff Parish decision makers. It was clarified that these things are in the current budget. We have included a 3.3 COLA, which is projected for the Seattle area, although the national COLA is 2.1.

Someone asked about the decrease in payments to the church by the preschool. We were reminded that the preschool is now paying for its own janitorial service.

It was also noted that the kitchen is a separate budget and we still owe \$50,000 on our loan, which is due for complete payment in 2019. It was suggested that we have a fundraiser for the kitchen, something we have never done, and we all agreed that that is a good idea.

Melinda made the point that it is easier to get folks to pay for specific things, rather than the general operating budget, which just isn't as sexy. (And yes, I just couldn't pass up the chance to use the word sexy in the minutes for a church meeting.) But it's the general operating budget that creates the wonderful church we love, so we need to make sure we continue to support it.

Steve pointed out that we used to put an announcement in the bulletin telling folks that the budget is available in the office for anyone who wants to see it. We've also put general information in the bulletin about income and expenditures on occasion. It was observed that folks are more willing to give when they know where their money is going. Our staff and lay leaders spend the money in their care very responsibly. Melinda makes a point of letting folks know that, and we must make sure the message always gets through.

Melinda is willing to put information in the bulletin to keep people informed about the budget. She also asked for prayers around the process as the Finance Team looks at the numbers and makes their recommendations next week.

CRC (Considering becoming a Reconciling Congregation):

We have two opportunities coming up as we continue looking at the possibility of becoming a reconciling ministry. First, Fairwood Community United Methodist is having a potluck to celebrate its one-year anniversary of becoming a reconciling congregation. It will be on Saturday, June 2, at 6:00 p.m. and we are invited to join them. So grab your casserole dish or fruit or bag of chips and feel free to join the party and find out more about what a reconciling church is like.

In addition, we will be hosting a Table Talk at Aldersgate to consider the reconciling question on Saturday, June 9 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Laura is working on this, and would no doubt be happy for any assistance.

Upcoming Common Table:

We have a Common Table planned for Monday, June 18, and agenda items are due by June 4. Brad will be presenting about his sabbatical at the meeting. Nothing was said about food; I suspect we'll be working out details by email, so keep an eye out.

In other news:

Jennifer will be taking 100 dresses to Africa. There are plans to pray over them in church in early June.

The second Sunday in June is Confirmation Sunday, and we'll be celebrating our confirmands that day.

A child recently fell on our playground and broke his arm while under his mom's supervision. A preschool parent who is a lawyer recommended to Dorothy that we post a sign that will welcome people but also caution them about using the playground safely. Dorothy is drafting such a sign and will get a lawyer to look at it before moving forward.

At this point Laura closed the meeting in prayer. We covered a lot of ground, and we didn't go too much past 8:30! Good job, everyone!

These minutes respectfully submitted by Robbin Price. All errors, omissions, boneheaded mistakes and weird typos are mine, and corrections are cheerfully and gratefully accepted. Have a blessed week!

Next Meeting: Common Table, Monday, June 18

Summary of Motions:

Motion: Core Leadership meetings will start at 7:00pm and end at 8:30pm, with time allocated to each item in the agenda by the chair. If items start to extend beyond the allotted time, a decision will be made whether to end the discussion, table the item, continue to work on it by email, or take whatever action is deemed appropriate.

The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: That we offer 2 nights a month to NAMI for a spiritual or family support group, as they deem needed.

The motion passed unanimously.

Summary of Action Items:

--If you can help with food on June 30 for the visiting youth group from Anaheim (either dinner or breakfast), please contact Laura.

--If you can help on the Nursery Staff Search Committee, let Jen, Dorothy, or Laura know.