

Congregational Board Meeting – August 9, 2016

Attending – Leeann Blundell, Scott Glasrud, Lynn Cockle, J.J. Jones, Esther Giffin, Sally Nielsen, Travis Wymore, Kathy McDandel, Steve Bough, Cindy Irey, Betsy Wilson, Jennifer Parker, Courtney Sullivan, Erin Parkinson

Not Attending – Bill Watson, Deb Plucknett, Phil Love, Hannah Fenley, Karen Carlson-Cook, Jim Wells, Amy Rose

Opening Mediation and Introductions

Chair Leeann Blundell called the meeting to order and provided an opening prayer. Ms. Blundell then asked the board members in attendance to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes and Review of Materials

Leeann Blundell directed the board to review the minutes from the June meeting, asking for any amendments or additions. With no changes suggested, there was a motion for approval of the minutes, which was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Leeann Blundell then reviewed the packet of information that was distributed to the board, including the Board Covenant, the Vision of Ministry for the 2016-2017 church year, the leadership roster for the current year, the church bylaws, and the prospectus calendar for the 2016-2017.

End of Year Financial Review

Lynn Cockle reviewed the end of year fiscal statement, noting that variances to the Administration budget were driven by increased technology expenses, audit fees and board retreats/consulting, all of which were covered by donations and particular offerings. The Practical Services budget finished over for the year as there were renovations to the Well, brides' room, and library (defrayed by special offerings and donations) as well as HVAC repairs, which ended the year \$31,000 over budget. Ms. Cockle also noted that \$50,000 of the income from the year was set aside as a capital reserve, to be used for future capital needs.

Senior Minister's Report

Glen Miles took a moment to summarize the progress the church staff has made toward addressing the items outlined in the Vision of Ministry: the formation of small groups and revitalization of worship. Dr. Miles then asked the board to be aware of some upcoming events in the life of the church, notably Festival Sunday (September 11), the Back Pack Blessing (August 21) and the Elder and Deacon Spiritual Retreat (September 17). Glen introduced his plans for the fall sermon series "Deep Courage," and presented a brief Stewardship update. Glen also noted that a film crew will be utilizing the church on August 10th and 11th for the production of the independent film "Different Flowers." In conclusion, Dr. Miles added that he is forming a Senior Minister's Task Force on Racism, which will be meeting in the near future.

New Open Questions with Breakouts

Leeann Blundell explained the open question process to the board, noting that the book "Governance and Ministry" by Dan Hotchkiss was the inspiration for the process. Ms. Blundell asked the board members to listen for ideas of what God intends of our church, and what questions and topics are on our hearts to explore. For example, last year, board members wrestled with how our church might adjust to the changing culture, which resulted in our current vision of ministry to focus on small group formation and revitalizing worship.

After this review, the board broke into small groups with the goal to formulate open questions for the next leadership year. The groups were comprised of the following board members: Scott Glasrud, Jennifer Parker, J.J. Jones; Kathy McDandel, Nancy Lear, Travis Wymore, Erin Parkinson; Betsy Wilson, Sally Nielsen, Esther Giffin; Courtney Sullivan, Lynn Cockle, Steve Bough, Cindy Irey.

Small Groups Readouts

After 30 minutes of group collaboration, each group presented its open questions to Leeann Blundell. After collecting the formulated questions, Ms. Blundell concluded the group session noting that the results of this work will be shared with Dan Hotchkiss who will continue to consult with the board through the open question process for this church leadership year. A list of the brainstormed questions follows below:

- How can we celebrate and build on diversity?
- ...get more people involved in music?
- ...energize youth groups?
- ...revise our governance
- How long should our vision statement be our guiding mission?
- How do we know if we have fulfilled our vision?
- Who are our neighbors? How will we define or expand on our definition? (Where are the challenging neighbors?)
- What is our responsibility to our neighbors?
- How do we demonstrate being neighbor?
- What is our responsibility to the environment and our world, providing church for future generations?
- How do we utilize best practices of other churches?
- How do we appeal to both sides of the individual relationship with God vs. community impact?
- Should we provide parameters of membership? What does membership in our church mean?
- How do we become our members' charity of choice?
- How do we help people see church as something that improves your life, rather than taking something from you?
- How do we help the unchurched see church as a blessing, not a burden?
- How do we communicate to people who have had bad church experiences who we are and what we are doing as a congregation?
- How do we overcome the barriers against church?
- How do we promote ourselves like the "big" churches (i.e. COR) without being a megachurch?
- What makes the high-growth churches appealing to the community?
- Should we concern ourselves with growth of membership verses nurturing existing needs in existing attendees/members? Growth or substance? Growth with substance?

- How do we engage all aspects of the families/attendees in deeper way? How do we bring one-event participants into the community in a deeper way?
- How do we make everything we do an invitation to engage?
- How could we help to clarify our complex message accurately to find our target audience?
- Should we have a target audience? If so, who are they and how do we communicate to them?
- How can we be sure we are adding to peoples' lives rather than just making them busier? Then, how do we share that?
- How can we make services child-friendly and accessible?
- How will our church be an enriching place for children from infancy to adulthood, both in worship services and in throughout other ministries and programs?
- How do we define ourselves, and how do we communicate that to our neighbors?
- How will we maintain a healthy spiritual life with the church?

Closing Prayer

Seeing no further business, Leeann Blundell called the meeting to a close. Glen Miles provided a closing prayer.