



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Attendance:

Yes	No		Yes	No	
■		Deb Fowler, <i>Chair</i>	■		Becky Dougherty, <i>Spiritual Formation</i>
■		Sarah Lehman, <i>Chair Elect</i>	■		Karen Barstad, <i>Worship</i>
■		Mike McCallister, <i>Secretary</i>	■		Mary Welfling, <i>Archivist</i>
■		Emi Bennett Vo, <i>Community Life</i>	■		Paula Northwood, <i>Acting Senior Minister</i>
	■	Eric Olsen, <i>Finance and Administration</i>	■		Beth Faeth, <i>Minister for Congregational Care</i>
■		John Kulstad, <i>Fine Arts</i>	■		Dan Wolpert, <i>Interim Minister</i>
■		Peter Eichten, <i>Outreach</i>			

GUESTS: Allison Campbell Jensen, Mary Kay Sauter

Actions Taken:

Item 1. Minutes of the previous meeting electronically approved.

Item 2. Leadership Council will host the Coffee Service during one of the upcoming months.

Item 3. The Leadership Council recommends that the Racial Justice Task Force be renamed the Racial Justice Initiative.

Agenda and Minutes

Meditation / Prayer

- Reading offered by Mary Welfling, an untitled poem by Mary Katherine Lidle, from the book titled *Open the Door*, by Joyce Rupp.

Introductions and Welcome to the Team

- Peter Eichten introduced himself to the Leadership Council.

Highlights of Immigration Sunday, 11/11 - Mary Kay Sauter

- Mary Kay Sauter shared plans from the Immigrant Welcoming Working Group about activities leading up to Immigration Sunday, on November 11. The IWWG is getting the word out through Flame articles, announcements, and by staffing tables in Guild Hall and Jones Commons.
- Daniel Romero from First Congregational Church will be the guest minister on November 11.

What you are seeing and hearing about the new schedule - All

- Lots of positive developments. Seeing remarkable increase in attendance at the 9am service. Attendance at the 11am service is holding. Last week down slightly, which sometimes happens with guest ministers.
 - Fellowship after the 11am service is still good, with good participation in Guild Hall. Will look at having small snacks for 10am attendees.
 - Board of Spiritual Formation is asking its members to help Sundays at 10 participants find rooms. Board of Worship also figuring out how to greet people at both services.
 - Have had good participation in the existing Sunday morning programs (now Sunday's at 10), with more people attending. Sunday Forum is seeing participation from parents who have young children. Church School attendance is up 37% from last year.
 - Thanks to the Boards of Worship and Spiritual Formation for working to make this happen.
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Senior Minister Report

- Each board was given an extra \$1000 in their budget for growth-related efforts. “Growth” should be considered in a very broad way, and there is a lot of flexibility. Boards should talk about what they can do with this money and share notes back with Paula. The money may have been placed in an unexpected budget line item, but it can be moved.
- Deacons are working on establishing trust and sorting out their work, focusing on the Purposes.
- This year’s annual campaign has an additional fund in honor of Philip’s 50th anniversary. Special contributions will place notes in a song, which will be revealed through the drive. Boards should encourage their members to make a pledge, as leaders of the church. The board that reaches 100% pledge participation first will win a dinner prepared by John Schenk and Rick Neville, co-chairs of this year's Stewardship Campaign.

Overview of Leadership Day - Deb Fowler

- Discussed the agenda for the upcoming Leadership Day. Will start with a brief worship service, followed by Paula’s overview of priorities for the year. Dan will do a piece on new church realities affecting the church in the 21st century. We will close with a topic on radical hospitality, hosted by Beth, Seth, and Nina.
- No Board Formation content will be covered so boards should be sure to cover it with their members.
- Allison will distribute RSVPs for Boards to follow-up with members.
- All Boards, Task Forces, and the Deacons are invited.

Discernment - Dan Wolpert

- Dan led the Leadership Council on an exercise in discernment.

Board Spotlight, the Archives/Bovey Room - Mary Welfling

- Mary presented on the history of the Archives and the Bovey Room in which they are now housed.

Other Items

- Board and Leadership Council Volunteers for Coffee Service – Emi Bennett Vo
 - Emi described how the Coffee Service is currently being covered by volunteers, and she invited other boards or their groups to participate. Sponsored by Board of Community Life
 - Volunteers receive an opportunity for hospitality and engagement. Need 2 people per week, and the effort usually lasts for 15 minutes after the 11am service. Baked goods are always welcome and appreciated. A separate group does setup and cleanup.
 - **Agreed.** Leadership Council will volunteer to host a month.
- Regarding sermon on Sunday, there has been a variety of reactions, some favorable and some not. Peter heard from some congregants who wanted to continue the conversation that was started. Paula and Peter offered to host discussion during the following week’s Sundays at 10. It was also agreed to consider whether sessions like this should be made available during the week of November 11th. It was also noted that the Racial Justice Task Force was working on these topics and would continue to do so in the coming year.
- The Leadership Council **recommends** that the name of the Racial Justice Task Force be changed to the Racial Justice Initiative to better reflect the ongoing nature and importance of the work.
- Noted that Beth will be installed October 14.

Next Meeting

- Next Leadership Council **October 24, 2018** at 6:00 pm

Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Mike McCallister, Secretary