

Pastoral Team Minutes from January 11, 2017

Present: Lorie Hershey, Pastor; Mark Michalovic, elder; Nick Lordi, elder, Amanda Esh Bouwman, elder; Laurie Callan, elder; submitting minutes.

*Began with Centering Prayer.

*Nick will lead Community Life Group meeting in late Spring.

*Discussed upcoming Marriage seminar (January 28, 2017). Amanda sent list to elders, of those planning to attend, so we may keep them in prayer (14 couples).

Total cost of seminar is \$300. Will ask for donations from those coming. The rest can come out of elders budget. Will reimburse Gerry and Carey Davis, who are hosting, for the cost of lunch supplies. Youth group planning babysitting at Wetherbee home during seminar, as a fundraiser. Couples will be asked to make donations.

*Discussion about Visioning for this year:

Discussion about upcoming **church retreat** in April. Pastor Lorie had sent out an email to elders, previous to meeting, about her phone conversation with Micky ScottBey Jones, whom she heard speak at a Kingdom Builders meeting.

Nick spoke about someone he has worked with in the past, whom he felt would work well, who is local, as Ms. Jones is from outside the area and this adds to the cost.

Decision made to use Ms. Jones, based on Pastor Lorie's conversation, which was felt by most to connect with how we would like retreat set up. Franconia Grant money we were given last year, can be used, as retreat theme will fit the parameters of the grant. Lorie will confirm with Ms. Jones.

Discussed **Safety Pin Box** subscription idea brought to our attention by Thomas Leischner. We felt it might be something a small group in the congregation would be interested and could further facilitate congregants in looking at how they view/connect with race. Cost (\$100/month) is not something that fits into the church budget at this time. Those involved would have to be willing to contribute or Thomas could discuss with the deacons if there is any financial assistance available. Pastor Lorie will let Thomas know of our discussion.

Broader discussion about visioning, brought by Pastor Lorie. Discussed being intentional about looking at ways for the congregation to be spiritually grounded, while many are looking at ways to be working for justice and in “activism mode” with the new political administration coming into office. (Church Retreat theme fits into this.)

Some ideas: Looking at our work with Comegys School and recognizing how we interact with them, as a mostly white congregation and a mainly black school (students and staff). Discussed looking into Crossroads Anti-racism training.

*Adopted Statement of Purpose for WPMF Sunday School, worked on by Pastor Lorie and Amanda Esh Bouwman, children and youth committee elder, with input from all elders. They will send this out to all those in charge of S.S. and plan to meet with S.S. leaders in the future.

*Administrative items discussed:

Talked about possible times for a **Pastoral Team retreat** to review input from visioning café and reflect on where we feel we are being called to as a congregation. Fridays seemed to be a day that all felt would work for them. Lorie to send out a doodle poll in the next week.

Future items for thought: After discussion about the marriage seminar, it was brought up to think about other groupings in the congregation that might benefit from a focused time together, whether a workshop, special S.S. time, small group, etc. We have wanted to work with parents around issues of faith formation.

Next Meetings: Either 2/1 or 2/8, depending of what date works for pastoral retreat and 3/29. (Lorie has a number of meetings earlier in March.)

February Meeting: Time Keeper: Laurie; Minutes: Mark.