

**Agenda: Pastoral Team
March 29, 2017**

Present: Lorie H, Mark M, Nick L, Amanda EB, Laurie C

Minutes Recorded by Nick L.

Lorie opened with Centering & Prayer

Updates:

- Church Retreat Theme update from Lorie - We're going to add some optional sessions to the retreat. Friday night will include some kind of ritual around lament and healing, ways to clear heart and head. On Saturday, we're going to talk about relationships and how we lead in the world, grounded in the idea of faith-rooted organizing. After a break we will discuss what faith-rooted organizing is and is not. She's also available to lead a discussion group in the afternoons. Lorie will email the church to see if an artist would like to present live art during the sessions, to present at the end of the retreat.
- Update from Lorie on our previous discussion of worship focusing on stories/sections of the Bible - Worship committee decided that in May there will be 4-5 stories on women in the Old Testament.

Reflection toward next steps

- Discussed the Congregational Review and what needs our attention.
 - a. Spent some time talking through some of the themes that come out of the review regarding small groups, creating a 'welcoming' worship service, building needs, and our relationship with Franconia conference.
 - b. Laurie brought up thoughts on how pastor and Elders can connect with congregation. Some people felt that they hadn't 'experienced' pastoral care, pertaining to Lorie. How does this fit into the role as an elder? Laurie suggested formally assigning elders to people in the congregation to 'check in' throughout the year.
 - Lorie talked about how previously elders did not feel that this might be the role of elders in our context.
 - Amanda suggested that this could be a support for Lorie. She suggested leading with an email.
 - We decided to think about this idea (or something different) and we'll return to it next month.
- Reviewed the Pastoral Team retreat that took place on March 3rd. Came away with these steps:
 - a. Lorie will start a google doc as the beginning to a letter from Pastoral Team to the congregation saying this is what we're holding in prayer; what we are considering/looking at for the future; also acknowledge this time in nation and our faith. We'll edit and process before the next meeting.

- b. Create a survey about small groups
 - Nick volunteered to do this. He'll talk to Joe first.
- Spent time reflecting and discussing Church Council meeting.
 - a. Began working on a process to engage a larger discussion and discernment with the congregation around Lorie officiating a same-sex marriage.
 - Talked about hosting a congregational meeting to talk it through. Going to put it on the calendar for May 21st (tentatively) or June 4th.
 - At next meeting we will work in more detail around what the congregational discussion will look like.
 - b. Discussed the conversation started at council around sexual ethics. As a team we decided to discuss this further before bringing it to the congregation in any way.
 - Develop a "Theology of Sex" over discussions as Pastoral Team.

Pastoral Care and Prayer

Took time to reflect on the overall emotional and spiritual health of the congregation at this time. As well as share prayer requests from the congregation and pray.

Future agenda:

- Revisit conversation about Children's Time and any guidelines/principles to give.

Next meeting:

Wed April 19th at Laurie's