

## **WPMF Pastoral Team Minutes – February 3, 2016**

**Present:** Lorie Hershey, pastor; Laurie Callan, elder; Nick Lordi, elder; Brenda Rich, elder; Mark Michalovic, elder

*Pastor Lorie, facilitator; Nick, time-keeper; Mark, scribe*

### **7:30 Centering**

### **7:40 Proposals for Church Council**

1. The proposal to change the affirmation process for choosing congregational leaders was discussed, and it was agreed to submit the proposal to Church Council for further discussion.
2. The proposal of financial support for Redemption Housing was discussed also, and it was agreed to submit the this proposal to Church Council for further discussion as well. It was also mentioned and discussed that the congregation would spend the next twelve months in a “preparation year” to get ready for deeper involvement with Redemption Housing.

### **8:03 Caring Team Update**

1. Laurie Callan shared that the caring team had met on Saturday January 30, 2016. The team discussed setting time limits on periods of service for team members to prevent burnout.
2. The team also felt that the congregation should be made aware of how to become involved in the caring team, and also that people in the congregation should know that there are ways to be involved even if one is not an official member of the Caring Team.
3. The Caring Team hopes to be operational by May.

### **8:03 Physical Space Discussions**

1. Some ideas related to our physical space were discussed and different building options and considered, as well as how this affects our vision as a congregation. The topic has come up a couple times over the past year, in different congregational discussions. We revisited some past discussions about building space that the congregation has had over the years, from some of us who have been around for them. The discussion about the building also stems in part from our desire to understand how space and worship intersect. This relates to questions of whether our space conducive to spiritual reflection, worship, and discipleship. While no conclusions were reached, it was agreed that others in the congregation should be involved in any decisions of this nature.

## **9:37 Updates**

1. The issue of church assistance to refugees fleeing the Syrian civil war was discussed. It was mentioned that the offering from the Christmas Eve service was donated to Lutheran Refugee Services to aid Syrian refugees. Mark agreed to ask interested and capable individuals about forming a new outreach group that could work refugee aid efforts.
2. The book study group that is reading Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Color-Blindness* was discussed. The group has expressed a desire to become actively involved in opposing the injustices described in the book. Pastor Lorie mentioned Redemption Housing (and the year of preparation for congregational involvement therewith) as potentially providing good opportunities for active engagement. POWER Links was also mentioned as a possible avenue for involvement.
3. The senior youth Sunday school class has begun a series on healthy sexuality.
4. Pastor Lorie reported that two individuals are interested in participating in a new members class. She also said she was considering delaying the start of the class by one or two weeks.
5. The upcoming worship series on baptism was discussed. It was agreed that a planning group for the series should be assembled, and guest preachers were suggested.
6. Pastor Lorie, Rabbi Elisa Goldberg (Kol Tzedek), Pastor John Pritchard (Calvary United Methodist Church), and Alicia Berry (Sojourners Girls' Camp) met with imams from the Masjid al-Jamia mosque and the Association of Islamic Charitable Projects to express support for our Muslim neighbors in times of anti-Muslim sentiments. Those meeting decided to plan for a time in March when members of Calvary, Kol Tzedek, and WPMF could meet with members of both Islamic organizations for food and education.

## **9:04 Nick's Credentialing**

1. It was approved that the \$90 MLI fee (part of the process of the credentialing of Nick Lordi by Franconia Conference) be paid for out of the Elders budget.

## **9:14 Pastoral Care and Prayer**

## **Next Meeting**

The next Elders meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday February 29, 2016.