

Joint Ministry Leadership Team Meeting August 22, 2013 6:30 – 8:30pm

Present: Cindy Murahashi (acting chair), Roger Blashfield, Donna Fitch, Jean Sheppard, George Pantely, Mari Matthias (recorder)

Absent: Jill McBee, Bob White, Sharon Pantely

Observers: Vicki Wartalski, Rose Miller, Dottie Gilbertson, Della Henderson, Betty Yenne

Cindy convened meeting at 6:30pm. Cindy led a devotion about Psalm 65, followed by a prayer.

FOLLOW UP TO PREVIOUS MEETING

- Printed Statement on Communicating was signed by JMLT members present.
- Approved the minutes of previous meeting (8/6).
- Jill has invited the council chairs to meet with us at the Sept 19 JMLT meeting to share current finance procedures to help us discern what the CU might say about finance. They have been asked to provide a monthly income and outgo statement.
- New members – Donna reported that all the recently joined members have been contacted/visited/lunched or the like.
- George reported that Sharon contacted Myrin about new visitors. Forming a team is in process.
- Fish coordination – Linden has handed over this activity to Melody.
- SPPC – Roger reported they had a productive meeting. Had good farewell potluck on Sunday. Myrin is handling pastoral care until interim pastor arrives. Pulpit preachers are scheduled for next three weeks and we expect to have interim by mid to late September.

JMLT FUNCTIONS – We consulted the Process Map.

- Cindy and Mari will follow up to ensure the minutes and other docs are on the website and JMLT records keeping folder in the office is available and up to date.
- Expenses – Need to assign someone to track our expenses and liaison with Jennifer for reimbursements. We have been allocated \$500 from each congregation. Donna volunteered.
- **Polity Potlucks** on Sept 11 and Sept 18 (Wed eve) probably 6pm. 45 min eat, 45 min talk, then Q and A. We need to give Bishop Dave and Steve Ross topics to talk on.
Talking points: Roger wondered what are the 2) “shall” and “may” points of each denomination. Jean asked 1) “What do you teach and what do you believe?” 3) “What does a Lutheran minister do with a Methodist congregation? Vice versa.” How ministers are called in each tradition. What is role of pastor? Are you traditional or contemporary? Is this denomination liberal or conservative? Evangelical or fundamental? Traditional or contemporary?
Titles: **Learn about Lutherans with Bishop Dave** and **Meet the Methodists with Steve Ross**
Who will write announcements? Cindy volunteered.

To be given to Andy before Monday, to be included in website and September newsletter.

To be given to Jennifer by early next week for bulletins starting Sept 1st.

Who will coordinate potlucks? **We decided to cut the potluck and start the event at 6:30pm.**

We will ensure that some of the JMLT members will be at each.

Roy Petit will videotape presentations for those unable to attend.

COVENANT WRITING DISCUSSION

Deciding what the major sections of the CU need to be.

Roger distributed seven sets of by-laws from different partnership/union communities as examples. He also distributed his notes/impressions of them. Lots of discussion followed:

Jean reported the minimum required elements to be a not-for-profit:

1. Statement who you are, who are your members, shared mission (preamble) Mission/vision
2. how will be governed, elect officers, run meetings/quorum etc., & principle functions
3. how amend by-laws, what is fiscal year, who owns the property,
4. how you solve disputes, how you separate

Question: Is there a difference between covenant of union and by-laws of a union?

We expect that we can edit a concise 10 or so page document all together, without splitting into small groups for writing sections. Seems the preamble/statement of who we are will be easier to formulate as we go through the process. May even be the last thing we write.

So to begin: On designing the governing body -

Short, simple is best. Flat structure allows committees to function without needing approval loop. They will meet four times per year and discuss past/present/future. All elected board members should be on a committee. Do we want an elected governing body (at large or heads of committees)? Or appointed? Or a combination? One example of flat structure has few elected positions, but heads of committee are volunteers and serve by virtue of office. Or shall all of the elected board be the committee chairs?

We agreed that a flat structure is best - meaning the essential group delegates to about 6 or 7 sub-groups (committees). More than that would be ineffective. Beyond these 7 or so there can be taskforces that would be for a single something as need arises. What would those subgroups be? To do flat structure we must be clear about how to be accountable. Must do ministry instead of meetings. Jean felt strongly that the blended federation are more what we're trying to articulate and not the differences and separateness. So she asked: Is that what we want? Those present emphatically agreed that **a union** is what we are drafting, not two separate congregations coexisting.

HOMEWORK: See what other groups are doing. We each shall look at the bylaw examples that Roger brought, focusing on the McMinnville Coop (www.mac-coop.org), Church of the Straits (www.thechurchofthestrains.com), Indian Hill Church (indian-hill.diosohio.org) Hot Metal Bridge (www.hotmetalbridge.com), as these are the most simple, succinct and appropriate to our purpose of the seven. If we want to have a flat structure then how is there representation of both faiths and how they accomplish this. **As we read this, ask ourselves: Which would be most suitable as a framework to begin with and modify? Come back to next meeting with clear sense of governing body.**

Cindy will notify Bob and Jill to pick up their packet of bylaw examples from church office.

Cindy ended in prayer and adjourned the meeting at 8:34pm. Next meeting is Sept 5th.