

Joint Ministry Leadership Team Meeting October 3rd, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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

Absent: Jill McBee

Observers: Rose Miller, Kathy Rice, Vicky Wartalski, Bette Lou Yenne

Cindy called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. A devotion was led by Donna: a quote by Maya Angelou: “There is something gracious and graceful about serving.” and a reading from Joyce Rupp including “Use me anyway.”

Cindy offered an opportunity for comment from the observers. There was none at this time.

New Interim Pastor

Pastor Jim introduced himself. He is expecting to get acquainted and see how we can partner in ministry. He is an advocate of transparency, participation and win-win outcomes.

His in-office hours will be three weekdays and Sunday – probably Monday and Thursday and then either Tuesday or Wednesday. Here 9:30ish through early afternoon.

Housekeeping

Checking in with ministry leaders. Bob had touched base with Craig Terry regarding buildings and grounds and reported that Craig does not wish to be nominated for a leadership position.

George suggested we let current leaders know to bring concerns to us. Cindy compiled a list as we brainstormed who key persons are and she will check with Jennifer in the office.

Listening Sessions

Purpose: 1) to hear peoples’ understanding of the draft and 2) to have people leave with a better understanding of difference between federated and union.

The listening sessions will be Wednesday the 9th at 6pm and Sunday the 13th at noon. Both start with potluck. Bob reported that Kris has arranged three or four ladies to coordinate the potluck for each. Donna offered to talk to Roy about video/audio. Need to have copies of draft on hand. Will invite folks to write their questions. Jean wondered about hiring a professional mediator to lead, as the concern in the church is the mistrust. The group agreed. Jean offered to arrange a mediator for the hour and a half sessions. Pastor Jim will do prayer/scripture. Cindy will introduce the 9th, Jean will introduce the 13th.

Federated vs. Union

Much discussion. We see the primary difference as level of commitment: married or roommate, one governing body or several. JMLT group consensus was that the congregations had voted to become one congregation, not two roommate congregations, with one governing body.

There are some technical steps – may need to develop long-term timeline.

Financial Report from ORLC

Received copy of the 2013 budget from Vicki, from the January annual meeting. When asked for more current information we were told there isn't any. When prompted, Vicki and Kathy report assets as the church building, the land and the outreach house – no mortgages or liabilities. Also when asked they report there is a checking account, but had no idea or estimate of what the balance is, which also changes from month to month. Vicki and Kathy report that they don't have specifics on current balances as the finances are complicated and still getting cleaned up from when the treasurer job was vacated earlier in the year. No other accounts or endowments declared. They also report there have been many unexpected expenses this year, such as about \$1000 spent on maintenance of the outreach house.

Will need to look at joint stewardship.

There was some exchange between team members and observers.

Cindy closed the meeting with prayer at 8:30pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday October 17th, following the listening sessions.