

DRAFT Joint Ministry Leadership Team Meeting October 17th, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Present: Jill McBee (chair), Cindy Murahashi, Pastor Jim Flaschbart, Donna Fitch, George Pantely, Mari Matthias (recorder)

Absent: Roger Blashfield, Jean Sheppard, Bob White

Observers: Rick McBee, Phil Yokers, Kathe Yokers

Jill called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and had reflections from her travels and a prayer.

Communications Statement – Jill asked that we each read a favorite part.

Approved minutes from October 3rd meeting.

Expenses – Donna does have a small bill for photocopying that has not been submitted. For the moderator, the bill for \$225 has been submitted. Jill had financed about \$100 in stamps that has been submitted a while ago for reimbursement but not paid. More stamps were provided by church office that may need to be reimbursed. JMLT budget is \$1000 (\$500 from each congregation). Bills can be submitted to either congregation. Donna will follow up on the accounting so we know the balance.

Concerns regarding well-being of church, pastor, congregation –

Jill said several people have approached her because they are hurt and upset by others' recent behavior (four different people through unrelated means, such as email or gossip). Passive aggressive, rude, inappropriate. Pastor Jim will talk with Jill about the specifics, but as a congregation, we need to be a healthy body that does not model such destructive behavior. We urge people to speak directly and appropriately and graciously to each other. We as leaders can be advocates of healthy communicating. Also if people are unhappy they can go to Pastor Jim. The goal is healing.

Checked on Timeline

Next meeting is Thursday, October 24th to finalize the revised draft.

Meeting on Tues October 29th at 6:30pm with Steve Ross about how to run town hall meetings. In fellowship hall.

Town Hall meetings: Sunday Nov 3rd and Wednesday Nov 6th.

In November scheduled for meetings every Thursday.

Pastor Jim will miss Nov 12 – 16th.

Vote is scheduled for Nov 17th. We should be ready with an election date for Board members should the bylaws be approved. The new Board would take over on Jan 1st, effectively replacing and dissolving all three councils currently operating. (Lutheran, Methodist and jmlt)

Nominations committee – need to revisit this

Steve Ross has offered to train this nominations committee. Need to get date from him at the meeting on Oct 29th. Jill and George are working on this group.

Listening Sessions What did we learn?

Most of our team attended both sessions and those of us who couldn't attend listened to the audio recordings. We also reviewed several feedback letters/emails/etc that were received thoroughly. Here was some recording of topics discussed.

Need to be clear of intentions and address people's fears and concerns – educate them. Should be clear in our mission and how the mission leads to this change. How it is a bigger purpose. Should be stronger on section two, Purpose.

Name – name should be new, symbolic of a new start for a new melded group of Lutherans and Methodists together, subtitle is crucial. (w/denominational titles – ELCA & United Methodist)

Union/Federation – one congregation – one church, no matter what the term. Eventual federation when legally incorporated, which takes longer. But intention needs to be in this covenant.

Board – preference is to balance board? Make it smaller.

Standing Committees – Need to move finance to be a standing committee

Should we move Building and Grounds to standing committee? No, as it will have a budget and have the authority to administer it, reporting to the pastor. If a big issue arises it would be taken to the Board as appropriate.

Pastor having vote? The two pastors present said they've experienced both and both prefer voice-not-vote because there is less risk of "taking sides" or having to be tie breaker.

Timeline for financial blending – The operational budget blends first and complete combining will follow. It is a complicated process and a legal process. This should be in bylaws as a target time frame.

Quorum is missing. ORLC current constitution says 30%. Pastor Jim says that is the highest percent is he's seen and recommends a lower one. We settled at 20%.

Voting by proxy and absentee not allowed.

Defining who is a member needs work – Should look at a model ELCA constitution. Current or preceding calendar year.

Also need to add definition of a *voting* member.

We should have a companion explanation document with the bylaws. Also need to do the handbook – should be clear on functions, expectations, accountability and authority.

Too many positions to fill. Lower min on committees.

State that current members of two churches will automatically be members of new congregation.

Should have section of way to remove a pastor.

Bylaws as a term is confusing. Perhaps return to Covenant of Union.

Some concerns beyond the bylaws were around dealing with the mistrust issues. The rude and negative behavior has continued and some are afraid it will be allowed to continue. A healing session was suggested. We talked a lot about this.

Town Hall – Purpose: to answer questions about the perfected draft.

Need to be clear that the bylaws will take place of the current constitution.

Moderator? Pastor Jim offered to moderate the Wednesday meeting. He's not sure he can do the Sun. Jill will ask Pastor Steve to do Sunday or both. We should perhaps have a power point with more complete info as we walk them through the bylaws/constitution.

Homework – Cindy will work on redrafting the Purpose section. Mari will do the minutes. Donna will follow up with jmlt accounting. George will look into the Lutheran church member list for current and accurate roles. Jennifer has the current list of Lutherans. Jill will talk to Gigi for the Methodist list. For everyone – go through document and write changes and address specific concerns.

Pastor Jim led a closing prayer. Jill adjourned meeting at 8:45pm.