

DRAFT Joint Ministry Leadership Team Meeting November 5th, 2013 6:30 – 8:30 pm

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

Absent: Roger Blashfield, George Pantely, Jean Sheppard, Bob White

Observers: Vicki Wartalski, Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke, Rick McBee, Gigi Siekkinen, Jim Siekkinen, Kathy Terry, Betty Lou Yenne, Debby Chenowith, Bob Havig, Rose Miller, Marv Turner, Della Henderson, Randy Church, Doug Swanson

Jill called the meeting to order and Pastor Jim reflected on the persons on the cover of The Lutheran magazine (including Bishop Dave and Debby Chenowith) – that you may not see everyone there but they are there. Hebrews 12: 1 – 2 “a cloud of witnesses”

Jill quoted Rev Steve Ross: “Not writing a new book, writing a new chapter in a story.” She had a diagram with the Partnership in the center and lines drawn to it: our faith, pastor, positive shared experiences, healing, and through a single board governance we’ll have leadership and solid finance.

Read the Covenant of promises aloud together.

REPORTS

Donna reported on a training on discerning and calling leaders attended by Jill and Donna with Rev Steve yesterday. They will start with writing job descriptions. Committee members are George P, Donna, Vicki and Gigi and Pastor Jim.

Finance committee meets tomorrow to figure out how to join operating budget.

Pastor Jim reported on his plan for healing process. He will be available to chat individually, hold group educational sessions on ways to participate in wholeness/well-being, and offer the theme of wholeness/healing in worship.

THE DOCUMENT

Jill explained that both councils were invited to this meeting tonight because as leaders we all have a responsibility to the members of the congregation, especially the elderly and the youth. So any issues that need to be addressed should be brought out here and now. She highlighted points: the joint congregation will **not** be nondenominational, a unified budget is not for thrift purposes but to better/more effectively serve the community.

Pastor Dave will attend both the 11/10 and 11/17 meetings. He offered that the partnership document is allowable to our denominational authorities, so the question now is how do we best facilitate the process that the congregation wants to take.

Bette Lou read a letter she had prepared, first thanking JMLT for changing document, thanking Vicki and Pastor Jim. She said ORLC took a big step with partnering with FISH. The negotiation is between FISH and ORLC and should stay that way until it is finished. The current ORLC council has been working together through the legal issues and construction decisions. The issue is continuity and who is in power over the building decisions once FISH starts building. She is opposed to dissolving ORLC and its constitution and its council because of the delicate stage of the partnership with FISH. Debby and Bishop Dave clarified that the original ORLC constitution does not go away, just is superseded in things that are in conflict. There is leadership for the denominational issues built in to the document. Dottie said the agreement is between Fish and ORLC and should be finished before merging with Asbury. A concern is that in the Document, the denominational council of the new governance structure would be two voting persons. They want to maintain the separate denominational councils. Pastor Dave said the downside to leaving councils as is leaves question of who's in charge. Dottie suggested the construction of the building be a task force board made up of the persons currently serving, in that way to keep the continuity. Mari suggested that a Methodist person join with that group, but Dottie rejected that idea. Gigi asked what the problem would be if Asbury people would be in on it, since we would be partners. Marv stated that he knows several Methodists who would want to participate. Rick asked why the single governing council members not part of that denomination not have a vote. But it seemed to be important to the current Lutheran council members present that only Lutherans have control over the property and the building decisions. After construction is complete, the maintenance costs and decisions would be a shared responsibility. Debby said the operation and maintenance committee will take that over once building is built and that would be a logical time to include Asbury person(s) on that task force. Bob asked that in the Document, the fish building be stated as owned by the Lutherans even though it won't be built before the November 17th vote date.

Bob had issue with the preamble – asked that “favorable vote” be replaced by “two thirds vote”. It was explained that the two thirds requirement is laid out in a different place and that the vote itself may be more than two thirds, but Dottie felt that “favorable” is a poor description.

Dottie wanted to change name from Asbury/Our Redeemer Partnership to Asbury United Methodist/Our Redeemer Lutheran Partnership.

Bob: On page two, meetings of the congregation – doesn't say when annual meeting will occur. January?

Bob: A5. He suggests to have one option instead of three options of how a meeting is to be run. Many expressed they like the options as different meetings have different purposes.

Bob: A6. Who decides who is qualified? And he wonders about allowing nominations from the floor. Pastor Dave reminded that if it's not defined here clearly, reference to existing constitutions would be appropriate.

Bob: B4. He recommends there be 3 from each denomination, instead of 2 from each. It was explained that the JMLT didn't want to limit. Perhaps add “at least 2”.

Bob: finance committee – no language on how the budget gets approved. Also doesn't mention audit committee. However this is in the committee handbook, but perhaps should be written in to the document.

Bob: D. ministries – He thinks building and ground should report to board instead of pastor. Mari explained that each ministry will have a budget and the authority to administer said budget, but any large finance issues not budgeted for would have to go back to the board. Bob wants it clearly stated in the Document that spending over their budgets would go back to the board.

Bob: XIII – Word “suspension” word raises red flag.

Rose: page 2. Local governance 3. Quorum for meeting ought to be 30% instead of 20%. Pastor Jim spoke to that – 30% is a very high percentage in most constitutions. Gigi pointed out that a quorum isn’t req’d in Methodist. Will probably leave it at 20%.

Debby: item b.5. Language should be “ELCA mission support” (instead of “Lutheran”) since support payment is not required by its guidelines.

Gigi: page 6.c. Nominating 3. and D. Suggests change word “recruit” to “call”.

Betty Lou: question on page 8: b2. Rights and responsibilities of membership. What does “shall participate in worship and other congregational activities” mean? Could be praying at home – prayers, gifts, service. Pastor Dave stated membership in B is aspirational and in C is actional. In other words, no one will lose membership for things stated in B.

Dottie: page 8, rights and responsibilities. Thinks voting member should have a six month “probation period.” The fear is that people will become members Sunday morning and that same day have a vote on an important issue that they don’t understand. Wants membership requirements clear. Pastor Dave responded that membership would have to be verified by the leadership, with some exceptions such as baptism and confirmation. He also says that people joining church will have been attending for a few months and be aware of said theoretical issue.

Dottie: preamble and definition of mission statement – had problem with some wording. Not clear. Didn’t like “set forth” – wants a more active statement. “Our mission is” Also doesn’t like learning through “valuing” – not clear – should be learning the Word by providing opportunities. The language can be tweaked some, but don’t want to change Document a great deal since it will be voted on 11/17. Pastor Dave asserted that the official new constitution at the end of two years should be much stronger.

Della had concerns about the time frame about any changes made to this version and the 11/17 vote. Jill responded that big issues will be addressed and some of the little things may get wordsmithed, but most would need to stay the same. The logistics are not worked out as to how to disseminate the revised Document, but the need to have vote on 11/17 takes into account time needed to set up the governing board before January.

Jill asked if the Document, with a FISH Task Force added, has the support of the councils. There was a long pause. Bob said this document is a big improvement over the first, though he doesn’t know if it will work, but the next two years will tell. Gigi raised concern about the attitude towards each other and questions if the ORLC council is for the partnership. Vicki said “That is a lie.” – that the council is supportive of the partnership. Mari said it matters how we talk to each other and to not be disrespectful in our language. Jill reminded us to love each other underneath what is said. Della said it will take time but sooner or later we will become one.

TOWN HALLS

This is opportunity to have the Document clarified and explained. Holy Conferencing – shall begin with reading covenant of behavior and explanation of proceedings.

Wednesday Nov 6, 6:30pm moderated by Pastor Jim (Donna, Jill, Cindy, Bob, Mari attending)

Sunday Nov 10, 3pm moderated by Bishop Dave (Donna, Cindy, Jill, George, Roger, Bob, Jean attending)

Roy will set up mics and recorder in the sanctuary. JMLT will be scattered in audience.

Room arrangement? Note takers?

Format – Pastor Jim plans to follow format of offering everyone an opportunity to: speak and share concerns, ask any questions, state all positive aspects about the covenant.

Councils were excused at this point, although invited to stay. (Vicki, Bishop Dave and Rick remained.)

VOTING DAY

Sunday 11/17/13 3pm

Meet together to discuss and then separate for vote. Any amendment on the Document at that time would be difficult since then we'd be voting on different documents. Will be led according to current constitutions, so by council chairs unless it is designated differently. They will also be responsible for determining the quorum and who voting members are. Lowell Newhouse and Bishop Dave will be there. Discussed how to do ballot cards. Will have a list that is checked off and voting member given ballot card.

ELECTION DAY

Sunday December 8th Have only one church service at 10am, coffee, then the meeting.

Assuming passage of document, would like to have congregation vote together as one group. In document, page 11.X. Term of agreement, makes it effective Jan 1.

Possible language for the 11/17 vote:

Be it resolved that

ORLC adopt the JMLT proposed Single Board Structure Joint Covenant of Union to begin Jan 1, 2014.

Be it further resolved that

the December 8, 2013 meeting of ORLC and AUMC for the election of a new leadership board be held as a joint meeting with all qualified members voting together for all board positions according to the single board governance...

ALTERNATIVE ENDINGS TO JMLT EFFORTS

Exploring possible outcomes in order to explore JMLT response. Pastor Dave asserted that if document doesn't pass, Lowell and Bishop Dave will invite people who want to stay and discuss what's next.

Homework – Think how to get people to the meetings.

Bishop Dave closed with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

Next meeting Thursday, Nov 14 (short), Nov 21 (also short), Dec 4 (longer). (Mari Matthias recording)