

## **Core Leadership Minutes, December 14, 2015**

**In Attendance:** Irene Monson, Steve Rummel, Jen Hoerber, Brad Beeman, Jon Tucker, Julie Flahiff, Colleen Olleman, Stan McKenzie, Gretchen Stuenkel, Melinda Lilley, Tom Breske, Janice Zahn, Jack Morrison, Jenny Andrews, Patty Ferguson, Robbin Price

After a brief and informal discussion, during which Brad let us know just how much good the pastor's discretionary fund is doing (and more funds would be welcome, if you want to help bolster a whole lot of needed good cheer this time of year), Brad opened the meeting in prayer.

### Stewardship Update

We started with a report from Jack Morrison and Melinda Lilley on the recent stewardship campaign.

First, there was a report on the **kitchen fund**, and we're in pretty good shape. We've received \$98,000 in pledges, not including matching funds that would bring the number up to \$108,000. We have \$32,000 of this in hand, and an additional \$45,000 in our current building fund, as well as an expected additional \$1000.00 coming from Outreach. This puts us in a solid place to start the project. Jack was impressed that we accomplished so much so quickly.

The **operating fund** campaign has also gone pretty well. We've received \$306,000 in pledges, and based on past experience, we estimate that an additional \$77,000 can be expected. We're just a bit shy of where we want to be; another \$30,000 would be really helpful if we're to achieve our dream budget of \$420,000. We expect another \$4200 as well from our Beyond our Doors Grant. There is still time for more pledges to come in, and we are in a good place for now. We might want to do a little campaign in January to encourage folks who may have forgotten to get their pledges in, and we might need to adjust our budget slightly depending on what comes in.

All in all, it was a strong campaign that shows our desire to support our vibrant church in all its work.

### Kitchen Update

From stewardship we turned to the kitchen, which is moving toward exciting developments. Well, moving rather slowly toward exciting developments at the moment, because we are at the mercy of the City of Bellevue permitting process, but we are definitely getting there.

After receiving three reputable bids, all of them within \$10,000 of each other, we have chosen the lowest one. Jon Tucker brought the Statement of Work for signatures, and he will be acting as the communication conduit for the church going forward, meaning he'll sign off on all change orders, budget issues, and other items

requiring authorization. That way there is no chance of misunderstandings. He'll have the kitchen committee behind him, under Julie Flahiff's excellent leadership.

Jon described the preconstruction meeting where the contractor will meet with Ted Snyder, John Valentine, and members of the kitchen committee, including Julie Flahiff, Gretchen Stuenkel, Tom Breske, and Jon, to discuss details of how things will move forward. There are a lot of things to sort out; how to work safely around all the regular church commitments and the preschool, the need to shift things into Friendship Hall during construction, and a host of other details. We anticipate 46 days of work (about two months), but first we're looking at 4-6 weeks for the permitting process to conclude. The hope is that construction will start in late January and end in late March.

The actual cost of the kitchen is \$155,000. With the cost of the loan from the Foundation, it will come to \$185,000. According to Melinda, the numbers are looking good to support these costs. Payments will be made based on work completed. PSE rebates may also be available for some of our new kitchen appliances, such as the dishwasher and the heat pump. All this nice energy efficiency should pay off for us in the long run.

Brad observed that the kitchen committee has created a new sense of encouragement and accomplishment that will help us move in positive directions. Their work is greatly appreciated.

#### Community Forum Idea

Brad is interested in creating a series of forums at the church that will help us engage with the community around us. The idea would be to organize a panel of experts with varied opinions on a relevant topic, such as homelessness, immigration, or gun control, and invite the community to a presentation and discussion. He pointed out that nothing like this exists in the area, and that it is a sorely needed in a world where civil discourse and thoughtful consideration often lose out to strident voices and sound bites.

It was pointed out that this is a big job that will require a lot of work. Jen pointed out that if we create a model for designing a program like this, we could use that structure to make additional programs easier to put together. She pointed out that she wants to do a similar program for parents about having difficult conversations with their kids, and Colleen said Outreach is looking at having another forum this year on human trafficking, similar to the program on homelessness and hunger that they developed last year.

Brad asked that we prayerfully consider this idea for a month and come back for further discussion in January.

The discussion of issues such as homelessness also led to a discussion of the safe parking program at Lake Washington UMC and the observation that Bellevue

doesn't have any safe parking programs. (A safe parking program provides a space for folks who are living in their car and provides access to a restroom and sometimes other amenities.) Colleen mentioned that this is a project she will be researching as chair of the Outreach Committee.

#### United Way Day of Caring

The United Way Day of Caring is Monday, January 18, on the Martin Luther King Day holiday. Janice Zahn found out that the Seward Park Audubon Center is looking for 50 volunteers to help them that day with plantings and other activities. They will take volunteers age 2 and older, making this an excellent opportunity for families, as well as anyone who likes to help outdoors. The event goes from 10am to 2pm that day.

Jen pointed out that on the Friday of that week, January 23, the Family and Youth Ministries are doing a church spaghetti dinner and youth lock-in, and we considered whether having both these events in the same week might be too much. Then again, what better way to start and end the week? A motion was made to take on the Seward Park opportunity and present it to the body of the church. It passed unanimously.

#### Sophia Way

Sophia Way has money to staff an emergency shelter next spring for an additional two months, and they are looking for a church that will provide them with a building for this purpose. It would be during late March, April, and May. We decided that this might not be the best time, since the kitchen project might get in the way. We'll find out if we can help them at a later time instead. There is definite interest in making use of our property to provide shelter for those in need.

#### Facebook

Colleen is boosting our posts on Facebook on December 21 and 23 to get information about our Christmas services out to most of Bellevue. There is a very nominal fee for this, but it will get the word out. Core Leadership gave their approval for this. Remember that if you like something on Facebook all your friends will be able to see it, so get out there and like the church, everyone!

After a bit more informal discussion and a bit of shortbread from Melinda (very yummy—thanks, Melinda!), Brad closed us in prayer.

These minutes respectfully submitted by Robbin Price, all errors and omissions are mine, and additions and corrections are gratefully accepted.