

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

July 19, 2016

Attending:

Harris Atkins
Clarine Goodleaf
Dorothy Bennett
Jean Rummel
Dorene Johnson
Joe Lee
Renee Kroese
Pastor Brad Beeman

The July 2016 Staff Parish Relations Committee was called to order by Chairman Harris Atkins, who distributed the meeting agenda. Pastor Brad Beeman opened the meeting with prayer.

Brad noted that there has been a reassignment of several bishops in the western jurisdiction. Effective September 1, 2016, Bishop Elaine Stenowski will replace our current bishop, Grant Hajayi. The changes have created a certain amount of uncertainty and anxiety with clergy and other leaders in the Northwestern Conference and it remains to be seen whether these changes will affect us.

Jen Hoerber, Director of Children and Family Ministry, was invited to tell the SPRC about her thoughts on the future of the youth program. With Brad and Jen heading up the youth program, the middle school group now has about 13 students who participate. Jen reported that she is excited with the way these students have become a community and are supportive of each other. She said they would like to become more a part of the church family, participating in church events and even activities like grounds projects. There are five upcoming retreats open to them, and she would like to see them participate in a mission program. She is attempting to start Sunday School for them, but has found recruiting steady volunteers to be a real problem despite using emails, social media, phone calls, letters, and requests in the church newsletter. The theme for this upcoming school year will be "Fruit of the Spirit" where they will see how love, joy, and peace are relevant while still having fun together.

In addition, she will be starting a group 3-4-5 to meet once a month for third, fourth, and fifth graders. Parents will help host these meetings and will come up with fun activities. It was felt that this group will result in a natural progression into Youth Group for middle school. She noted that children, family, and youth are our church's priorities. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for next week, and Jen reported that volunteers are in place and we are ready to go.

Brad and Jen would both like to continue with the youth programs. It was suggested that, instead of pursuing the planned hiring of a part-time or shared youth director, another option might be to hire a part-time assistant to assist with the Children and Family Ministry, leaving Jen more time to devote to growing the youth program. The SPRC also considered hiring Sunday School teachers instead of relying on volunteers. These options will be explored more fully in upcoming meetings.

Prior to the SPRC meeting, Laura Wall sent in a letter of resignation, effective at the end of July. For financial reasons, she has accepted a full-time job with benefits. Per her request, we will not hold a special reception honoring her for her many contributions to AUMC. The SPRC will consider whether to hire another part-time person to handle some of the pastoral care.

Brad handed out a copy of "Clergy Requirements (10-Year Metrics)" which he received from the District Superintendent. It is essentially a review of accomplishments for the last ten years, plus a look at short and long-term goals for the future. This will require some time and consideration on Brad's part.

Brad also handed out a copy of his 2016-2017 Themes for sermons through Easter of 2017. The overall focus is on "Creating Community—Together" or "Better Together." In addition, he has prepared the Wednesday Studies for 2016-2017 which will cover "Our Favorite Stories of the Old Testament and What They Can Mean for Us Today."

Brad noted that he would like to see some simple changes made to the church grounds which would make them more useable for our youth and families and make the church more inviting to families attending. He noted that the grounds are the first things people notice about our church. He will develop this plan and present it to the CLT for their consideration.

Brad will be on vacation for two weeks in August, and Kyle Franklin from the Conference office will preach on August 7 and 14. It was noted with appreciation that Vince Fratello recently conducted two services that were well received.

Ted Snyder retired from his position as Facilities Coordinator, and the reception honoring Ted Snyder for his many years of service to AUMC was well attended and a very upbeat experience. Harris extended his thanks to those who assisted with the reception.

The position of Facilities Coordinator has been advertised since the beginning of July and will run to the end of the month. The SPRC is encouraged with the interest it has received and hopeful that we will be able to fill the position with a very qualified person.

The Core Leadership Team (CLT) approved the salary increase for Roger Ingall's position as First Service Music Director, effective July 1, 2016. A job description has been prepared, approved, and signed by Roger. As soon as it is returned, Harris and Brad will sign off on it. Routine paperwork for the state and our treasurer will also be completed.

The CLT has requested that the SPRC do a staffing review and make recommendations concerning what positions we need to fill, our salaries and how they compare to similar positions, etc. Joe will look at budget information and attempt to determine how we stand in this respect.

The next SPRC meeting is currently scheduled for August 16. We will need to begin work on budgets and staffing plans for 2017.

Submitted by Clarine Goodleaf