

## **Core Leadership Meeting, January 11, 2016**

**In attendance:** Brad Beeman, Patty Ferguson, Steve Rummel, Laura Wall, Melinda Lilley, Gretchen Stuenkel, Colleen Olleman, Jenny Andrews, Rick Wilson, Jen Hoerber, Jean Harris

Brad opened the meeting in prayer.

### **Kitchen Update**

Thanks to the hard work of the Kitchen Cabinet, notably Patty Ferguson, Lori Wilson, Julie Flahiff, Gretchen Stuenkel, and especially Jon Tucker, the kitchen project is really moving forward. It turns out that we don't need a building permit, just permits for plumbing and electrical work, so work will be able to start on February 1.

As was mentioned at last month's meeting, any questions or concerns about the kitchen should go through Jon Tucker; he will be the go-to guy for all things kitchen. Patty has developed a plan for moving and storing things during the remodel and showed us a map of how things can be organized in Friendship Hall during the construction. She mentioned that we might need one or two furniture moving dollies for moving the piano and a couple of other large items. She's assuming that we'll need to pull everything out on the weekend of January 30 and 31, just prior to the beginning of construction.

### **2016 Budget**

Melinda shared that the kitchen project is \$155,000, and we already have pledges of \$106,000, not counting an expected employer matching gift of 10,000. So we're at a pretty good place for so early in the project. An initial check for \$21,000 has been made to the contractor. We have a loan of \$128,000, which has just been approved, and we're looking at monthly payments of \$3800.00. We will still want a few more donations as things progress, and Jack has a plan for this, but we're in a remarkably good place financially.

As far as the budget as a whole is concerned, we're doing pretty well. Linda Reichenbach, who's acting as pledge secretary, says we have \$340,000 in pledges so far, which is about the same level as last year. We also came in \$17,000 under budget last year, so that money will carry over. That leaves us about \$16,000 under where we'd like to be. Staff is looking at where things can be trimmed, and it's worth noting that we have a conservative history when it comes to budgets (estimating expenses a bit higher than they often turn out to be). So again, there's still room for more donations if you haven't pledged yet, but we're not doing too badly.

Rick volunteered to do an additional pitch for kitchen funding in his inimitable style if it is needed. If that doesn't bring in donations, I don't know what will.

### **Church Website**

Daniel has completed a test site for the new website; all it needs now is content. Brad will re-send the email about this, which was sent right before the holidays and probably got lost in a pile of virtual wrapping paper and discarded ribbons. We are all to take a look at what is needed and supply content on our individual areas of expertise. The deadline is January 31 (we really need to get that website up and running), so sharpen your pixilated pencils everyone, and get writing!

Laura has a link to the test site, which she'll forward to Core Leadership so that we can go take a look.

### **Common Table Dates**

After some discussion, we set dates for three Common Table events this year (all on Mondays, as in the past), so get these on your calendar now, everyone:

February 8

May 9

September 19

Please note that the February 8 date will not include a full meal, since we won't have a kitchen at that time.

Thanks to Jen who volunteered to check the dates on the church calendar to make sure there are no conflicts.

Steve Rummel volunteered to facilitate the February 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Thanks, Steve!

### **Staff Training**

Laura and Brad shared that Kristy McLean will be providing a 4-hour staff training on Tuesday morning, February 2. The topic will be moderating and facilitating conversations on challenging topics.

### **Outreach**

Colleen shared that we will once again be having a food drive in conjunction with the Super Bowl.

### **UMW**

Jean Harris shared that the UMW wants to do more to support the church. They are not just about providing receptions and cleaning the kitchen (although they do a marvelous job at those activities, as we all know). She was encouraged to come back to more Core Leadership meetings to see what opportunities might arise. It occurs to me that the M in United Methodist Women also stands for Mighty and Magnificent.

Jean then closed us in prayer.