



Simplified Board Highlights

The Simplified Board met on Tuesday, February 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. with all but two members present. During the first half hour we focused on spiritual and leadership development. Sue Pattershall, Board chair, led us in thinking about “what is a disciple?” We then reviewed our responses from the January Board retreat about individual and church joys and gifts and how they could be used to feed hungry in our community. As disciples, how does our discipleship translate into the world around us? Our discussion centered on fostering connections with those in need as well as creating partnerships with other like-minded groups. Pastor Kristin closed our discussion by asking us to imagine what it would look like if more of the hungry in our community were fed.

Discussion then moved to the Spiritual Life Center. During the past few weeks Pastor Kristin held three meetings with members of the congregation to answer questions regarding the Spiritual Life Center and to gather comments and suggestions. She has categorized that information for use during the planning process. She noted that plans for several retreats are already underway. Our District Superintendent has advised that we work with a coach as we develop plans for the Spiritual Life Center and Pastor Kristin is looking into this. The coach would meet monthly with a small group to help us set goals and guide us toward achieving them.

Last week Board members received a packet of information to review which included reports from ministry teams, the finance task force, the building and grounds task force, attendance figures, and other items to keep us informed and assist with planning. A few concerns were voiced about using online giving but after discussion it was decided that the potential benefits outweighed the concerns and we voted to use VANCO online giving as a giving option in the near future. The church budget also generated some concern as projected income is nearly \$20,000.00 less than projected expenses. After discussion the Board approved the recommendations of the finance task force to adopt the budget, instruct treasurers to hold off paying mission shares until further notice, and to request \$800 from the missions account for facility use. Other fundraising, like Fuel Days, will need to be explored; the Board welcomes ideas from the congregation and volunteers to assist with fundraising efforts.

One of the Board’s roles is to facilitate Staff/Parish Relations and it has been helpful in the past for each staff member to have a contact person with whom to check in on a monthly basis. Members volunteered for the following assignments: Pastor Kristin, Mary Saunders; Darby Rock, Lynn Kennard; George Jones, Gary Alexander; Christine Letcher, Henry Berry; Sue Pattershall, Ardyce Robbin; and Nharra Lapitan, Tom Webber.

For our next meeting Board members were asked to review the report from the building and grounds task force and prioritize items from one to five, with five being the highest priority. Agenda items for the March meeting are due by February 27. Devotions will be led by Lynn Kennard in March, Ardyce Robbin in April, and John Webb in May. Our next meeting is March 20, 2018.