

# Leadership Team Meeting

10.21.10

## In Attendance

Christin McFadyen, Dena Wangberg, Bryan Nelson-Phelan, Rick Elgendy, Aaron Johnson, Carissa Esmon (and Ryan Anderson for the Financial Updates)

## Check In

## Financial Updates

- Budget
  - Over all we're doing well.
  - Budgeted to draw down 21,000 from the equity line and haven't done so yet.
  - Very inconsistent giving week to week.
  - \$775.00 earned through selling the produce grown in the garden. An increase from last year. More income in the Warming Center than budgeted.
- CDIA (Church Demand Investment Account with Covenant Trust)
  - Convert loan to long term loan. Build a reserve so if we're short they drawn from it. It'd be reflected in our mortgage balance. It's going to more than double our payments after we make the conversion.
  - Current equity line is 365,000. Propose to take out 15,000 to use as buffer for NCP(National Covenant Properties). NCP would keep it and we'd earn interest which would be off set in our payment. Doesn't affect our cash flow.
  - Need to clear up questions with Rob at NCP.
  - Bryan and Ryan will talk with Rob and we will approve over email asap.
- VANCO (Online payment / monthly giving service)
  - Congregants would have the option to set up an auto-pay account to tithe or give to the church.
  - Nominal fee to use VANCO. \$25.00 per month and a few cents per transaction. It's pay as you go. No year contract.
  - Some people use their bank or credit union to set a check to automatically be sent to the church. This would allow people to see how much they have given, set up quarterly giving to Warming Center for example.
  - Be intentional on a serious stewardship talk or sermon series first, and then maybe revisit this afterwards and see how that goes first.
- Ryan proposes another person to work with the Treasurer, Financial Secretary and a Financial Chair to act as mediator to help. Bryan works as that currently, but not in a financial sense. Need another set of financial eyes.
- Should we consider selling property?
  - Not now, but something to possibly consider in the future with the upcoming repayment of the equity loan.

## End of Year Responsibilities - discuss and plan via email

- Budget Team
- Staff Reviews
- Annual Meeting Date
- Nominating Committee
- Saturday Sessions

## Discussion on Sexuality within the Church

- Good for leadership team to have this conversation about hermeneutics in how we read the bible as well as the hospitality we do or would offer to someone who is a part of the LGBT community. A starting point for the entire church.
  - This was also brought up in the 1st sessions of the Just Community retreats.

## Ministry Team Updates

- Community Life: Community Life finally had our meeting! Dena has emailed out the thoughts from our meeting to all involved and we're going through the process of starting things up and following through. If any of you would like that email Dena and I would be happy to forward it along to you. Some highlights of the meeting are:
  - Planning out community meals and potlucks for the entire year
  - Planning possible movie nights
  - Starting to have "Hosts" at church who would rotate each Sunday - people who could stand by the door/table of info and be available to answer questions about different ministries, etc. as people look for or at the info available on said table
  - Another planning item discussed at the community life meeting was getting the Swap going again. A few people have offered topics, but at this point we should wait to schedule the sessions for the new year. Dena will be contacting the 3 folks who have offered already and will start planning for Saturdays come January.
  - One of the most helpful things at our meeting was the time spent with the calendar in front of us, planning out activities and meals and coordinating with other aspects in the life of the church. We believe we should have all those dates on the Google calendar on our website, even if they are tentative. Bruce thought it was very helpful to have the dates in front of him while planning for Christian formation, and I think other ministry groups would benefit from the shared calendar. Sarah may have already made the updates on the site.
  - Potluck on All Saints Day. Information will go out with the Life Together email this week for the potluck - theme Brunch. First 1/2 of alphabet will bring main dishes and the second 1/2 bring side dishes. Church will provide beverages. Aaron will make a bulletin insert and Christin will make an announcement on Sunday.
- Christian Formation updates:
  - The Christian Formation team has met since our last leadership team meeting. Those meetings served to ensure that Table Talk and In the Way were in a position to get up and running this month, and to start discussing some of our longer term goals. The larger team meetings did raise a question about a potential time conflict between one of our December retreat dates and a Community Life team event, not sure which event at this time.

- In the Way is beginning this week with a discussion of Tim Keller's Counterfeit Gods. I don't think they are assigning it to be read during the week, but rather spot-reading and discussing shorter passages at In the Way on Sunday mornings.
  - Table Talk groups should be running now.
  - The first session of our first Just Community retreat exceeded expectations. I think the crucial thing now is to get as many people from the church as possible involved in them: not only will those attending benefit, but the quality of conversation and the effect that the retreats can have on our wider body will be that much greater.
- Building Team Updates:
  - If you haven't used the first floor bathrooms recently, make a point to on Thursday to see the updates that TK did to them. They are much more inviting now.
  - TK has also been working on a few other projects such as rerouting our downspouts, outdoor signage, etc.
  - Bryan is working with Bo on getting acclimated to the sexton position. There have been a few things missed here and there since he took over but some of this is Bryan's fault for not working more closely with him initially. If you have seen/heard anything that needs to be addressed please let me know.
  - The building team is meeting at the end of the month to take stock of where we are and what needs to happen before the end of the year. Also, we are planning to do an all church work day on Nov. 20. We would like to do it earlier but open Saturdays are at a premium in the life of our church.
- Mission Team
  - Community Meal group is planning to meet soon to decide what to do with community meals in the future.
  - Beginning a North side Family support Network. Collection of Covenant churches on the North side of Chicago (and possibly south side) to support families in the midst of deportation. Getting trained on "know your rights" training. Who can then train others to then help and build relationship with people who are undocumented. Grace Covenant Church, Iglesia and ResCov are all currently a part of this.
  - Meeting on Wednesday, October 27th. People who want to be leaders in their congregations. Saturday, November 6th is the training. Open to anybody from those churches that want to come.
  - Aaron will announce that we are a part of this network. Anyone interested can talk to him.
- Worship
  - Welcoming 4 new people as members!

## Leadership Team for 2011

- Set responsibilities and expectations for those incoming members or interested in being on Leadership team. Practical guidelines. Not amending the Church Constitution.
  - Expectations of meetings, designation within the team (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, etc), active member of a ministry team (don't have to chair the team) and serve as a liaison for that team to the leadership team, commitment to one another on the team, lots of conversing via email
    - Meet 12 times a year. Attend at least 10 of the 12 meetings regularly scheduled meeting. With understanding that additional meetings such as for

budget, Annual Meeting and visioning sessions may be called for that our outside the regularly monthly meetings.

- Come alongside people who are active in the church to see how they are doing, how are they doing serving in whatever capacity they are serving in, what can we do to help or support, etc.
  - Leaders of ministry teams or ministries of the church, Table Talk leaders,
- Reminder that we are the people that have the responsibility to make sure the church does what it's called to do. But the leadership comes from the church. Steer away from the idea that someone could "rise through the ranks" and setting the leadership apart.
- Partly a language issue. What is leadership development? What do we mean by coming along side people, as a church, to support and form them or each other?
- We should be mutually forming rather than thinking that one person can form another.
- Encouraging people in their activities and service to the church community and helping people have space and resources to serve.
- Be more specific on what it means to be a liaison.
- Involvement in membership/covenanting classes.
  - Bylaws say that leadership team members meet with all those interested in membership one-on-one. Review.
- Commitment to stewardship of resources, time, etc.