

February 2019

VCM UPDATE



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Introduction to the Vital Church Ministry Update

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the CFUMC VCM Update! This newsletter will be published on a monthly basis throughout the year, with the exception of summer months. The objective is to provide information and status for the various teams' activities.

"We have entered a marathon, not a sprint."

A Word from Pastor Joy

Welcome to the first edition of the Vital Church Ministry Update! Our faithful and creative ministry teams have been busy. In these early stages of implementation, much is "behind the scenes." In the midst of all that is being discussed and imagined, together we are learning the importance of pacing. We have entered a marathon, not a sprint. As our coach says, "better to keep an even pace, than to start and stop, start and stop." Thank you for your prayers, interest and involvement as we offer our very best for the work of Christ in this time and place. *Pastor Joy*



Chelsea First United Methodist Church

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Chelsea First UMC Vital Church Ministry (VCM) Teams

* indicates shared leadership for the team

as of March 1, 2019

Implementation Team (PIT)*

Casey Wooster
Edie Wiarda
Mike Vanderspool
Sherri Plank
Ron Mourad
Bill Doyle
Joy Barrett

Spiritual Formation Team (SFT)*

Ed Willobee
Tom Drinkwater
Steve Beck
Max Plank
Pam Mansfield
staff: Jeanne, Michelle, Joy, Rodney
Ron Mourad (PIT liaison)

First Impressions Team (FIT)

Julie Deppner (leader)
Linda Meloche
Emily Kuo
Teresa Steklac
Megan Kiser
Steve Emmert
Reiley Curran
Sherri Plank (PIT liaison)

Nominations and Leadership

Development Team (NLDT)

Kristy Fetyko
Joe Krugh
Susan Wellman
Jocelyn Webber
Dianna Kause
Chris Putnam
Sandy Schmunk (per Book of Discipline)
Joy Barrett (leader – per Book of Discipline)
Mike Vanderspool (PIT liaison)

Outreach Ministries Team (OMT)

Sandy Schmunk (co-leader)
Deb Hubbard (co-leader)
Tom Davis
Norm Colbry
Rodney Gasaway
Edie Wiarda (PIT liaison)

Worship Design Team (WDT)*

Heidi Doyle
Heather Hay
Rob Long
Jamie Herbert
Courtney Aldrich
David Clayton
Dennis Crawley
Janet Carson
Cathy Riedel
Mark Loring
Janet Alford
Joy Barrett
Casey Wooster (PIT liaison)

Communications Team (CT)

Diane Brown (leader)
Liza Gray
Jon Van Hoek
Dave Gilbert
Bob Christie
Bill Doyle (PIT liaison)



Vital Church Ministry Team Updates

First Impressions Team

The First Impressions Team (FIT) was formed based on Prescription 3 from the VCI Consultation Report. The main focus of this team is to develop a clear process for welcoming, identifying, and following up with first-time guests. The FIT met 8 times beginning in early September, 2018. The team spent several weeks digging into the 139 page Mystery Guest Report. There were 16 areas the Mystery Guests reported on and each team member read two sections, summarized each section and reported back to the full team. The FIT members discussed each of the areas reported on by the Mystery Guests in depth, and determined which VCI committees should take a closer look at these areas, and possibly “own” this area as part of their work. They provided this recommendation to the PIT.

Each member of the FIT studied the recommended book, *Get Their Name*, by Doug Anderson, Kay Kotan and Bob Farr, and discussed the book over 3 meetings. There was not a strong commitment by the team to recommend this book for an entire-congregation read, and therefore, in consultation with the Outreach Ministries Team, the FIT decided to read additional materials relating to welcoming and inviting new members to our church. Committee members read one of two books: *The Art of Neighboring*, and/or *Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully Engaged Members of Your Church*. The team members then summarized each of these 2 additional books and discussed the pros and cons of these books with the full FIT over two meetings in December and early January.

Using the books as resources, as well as the feedback from the Mystery Guests, the FIT developed 11 Action Steps/Recommendations to improve our current processes for welcoming, identifying and following up with first-time guests. These 11 recommendations have been prioritized based on: 1). Easily implemented, requires little/no financial resources, 2) Needs additional time to implement, committee formation, training, etc., requires little or no financial resources, and 3). Requires financial commitment and approval from trustees as well as collaboration with other committees. The Recommendations with Action Steps have been provided to the PIT for further review and possible approval for implementation.



Spiritual Formation Team

The Spiritual Formation Team (SFT) began meeting in late September, 2018. The Vital Church Ministry plan charges us with developing a comprehensive plan of discipleship formation for our church, including all ages and all levels of commitment. Several staff members were part of the team from the beginning, including Joy Barrett, Jeanne Franks, and Michelle King. Rodney Gasaway joined us in 2019.

After discussing our purpose in September, we met in October and November to discuss *Membership to Discipleship: Growing Mature Disciples Who Make Disciples*, by Phil Maynard. The book encouraged us to think about discipleship and faith formation broadly – not only in terms of educational opportunities, but also in terms of our baptismal vows (prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness).

We are currently creating a comprehensive inventory of existing ministries that contribute to spiritual formation in this broad sense, so that we can see more clearly how our programming currently fits together and address any gaps. Regarding the gaps, some of our early discussion has focused on how we might organize small groups and what elements are required for a sustainable and coherent adult education program that provides appealing opportunities for explorers as well as committed believers. We also plan to review and assess the existing faith formation curriculum for children and youth.

In the coming months, we will be meeting more frequently, consulting additional resources for guidance, and drafting and discussing proposals. We appreciate your prayers!

Communications Team

The Communications Team (CT) has been meeting since October 2018. This VCM monthly update newsletter is one outcome of our team, in collaboration with PIT. You will be able to find hardcopies of the newsletter posted on a bulletin board outside Grams Hall. We trust you will find it informative about our church's progress with the Vital Church Ministry Plan.

Communications Inventory — Additionally, we've compiled an inventory of various communication methods used throughout our church and now are analyzing the effectiveness of each method.

Website and Newsletters — During our discussions, we've reviewed websites and newsletter communications of other United Methodist churches. We are continuing to revise our website to ensure that its contents are up-to-date, relevant and comprehensive. Please be sure to review our website for recent updates.

Digital signage — We are exploring consideration of installing digital signage in the lobby and Grams Hall to provide the building schedule, wayfinding and promotions in an electronic format.

Other communications assistance — In addition to being available to the various VCM teams regarding communications issues, we have held discussions about other ministry plan items that touch on communications such as making worship bulletins less text dense, making worship projections easier to read, and creating helpful outside signage to aid visitors in finding the entrance and parking. The PIT also accepted our recommendation to document table-discussion brainstorming during quarterly VCM Town Hall meetings.



Outreach Missions Team

Outreach Missions Team (OMT) has been meeting since September. Our goal: to connect to our local community, understand their perspectives and needs, and build genuine relationships with our neighbors. We are hoping to build something that will generate a long-term, lasting identity of outreach and service for our church, not just one-time, unconnected mission events.

We are working on a Community Needs Assessment. Our first step is to identify community organizations and leaders to help us define community needs, and possibly partner with us.

To date, we have met with leaders from the Chelsea Police Department, 5 Healthy Towns Foundation, Community Benefits and Missions Services at Saint Joseph Mercy Chelsea Hospital, Chelsea City Council, Chelsea District Library, and Chelsea Senior Center. The quality of the conversations has been excellent, with many issues and ideas raised up. Upcoming meetings are planned with Faith in Action, Chelsea schools, and the Chelsea Rotary Club.

Once the interviews are complete, we need to compile the results and summarize them into some sort of list of community needs. From there we need to develop an approach to receive feedback from the congregation about which needs people are most inspired by, and which our congregation is best equipped to make an impact.

We have also toyed with the idea that representatives from CFUMC should be active, ongoing participants in community organizations like the Ministerial Association and the Chelsea District Wellness Committee. We could be attending local public policy organizations like school board meetings or city council meetings. The intent is to gather information, be aware of ongoing or new community needs, advocate, and be viewed as a partner at the places where community needs are discussed and where decisions are made.

Worship Design Team

The Worship Design Team (WDT) read and discussed *Building Worship Bridges: Worship to Accelerate Neighborhood Connections* by Cathy Townley, Kay Kotan and Bishop Robert Farr.

A small group of the WDT attended the [REACH Summit](#) in Lansing in November and reported back to WDT.

A larger group of the WDT did a site visit to Brighton UMC in January, attending a choir-led service and band-led service on Brighton campus and the acoustic service at Whitmore Lake campus. The group reported back to the rest of the team on the pros and cons of these services.

Reviewed and analysis of the church's mission field (e.g. demographics of people living in a 10 mile radius of CFUMC) using [MissionInsight](#) software.

Ongoing Worship Service topics of discussion at WDT:

- Verbal announcements – mostly gone from service, except at the very end
- Passing of the Peace – some people like it; some people are very uncomfortable with it. At 9:00 am service, runs for up to 2 minutes and stops flow of service. Currently experimenting with a guiding question, as many people seem to greet each other rather than “Peace of Christ be with you”.
- Gathering music – some people want the congregation to be quiet during gathering music; some don't. WDT is still discussing this.
- Ancient-Future worship (e.g. melding contemporary forms of worship with ancient ones)
- Postlude – keep it, change it, sit or stand? WDT is still discussing this. A six week experiment is underway to find clarity on this.
- Discussion on separating our own preferences from those that (may) be appealing to new people.
- Projection during service – currently using slides during entire service; revamped music and sermon slides; will be trying new pre-worship announcement scroller when new computer and software are installed. Goal for this is March 1st.
- Background music during prayer – currently experimenting with piano music playing in background during prayer time.



Lessons learned:

- Importance of hospitality, welcome and children's ministry.
- Visitors decide in the first 10 minutes whether they will return.
- Importance of no “dead air”, either visual on the screen or live.

Announcements

Ad Council Town Hall Meeting & Potluck

Sunday, May 19th from 5:00-7:00 pm

A potluck meal is one where every household brings a prepared food contribution (appetizer, salad, veggie, main dish, dessert, etc.) for the meal...whatever you choose... typically something that would serve 10-12 people. Yes, store-bought is A-OK! Also bring sufficient plates, flatware, beverage holders for your household. The church will provide cold and hot beverages. It's a great tradition which blesses us with conversation and good food – plus the surprise of “what will we eat?”

Following the meal, we will have a structured time of sharing. Child care will be provided during this portion of the evening. Among the conversation items:

- Vital Church Ministry plan updates
- Brief Updates from Administrative Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Trustees, and Finance Committee
- More agenda items to come

We look forward to sharing this time with you. Please contact the church office — (734) 475-8119 — to make child care reservations by May 15th.

Thank you!

Ron Mourad, Administrative Council Chairperson

For more CFUMC VCM Resources, and to access our full VCI Consultation Report, please be sure to visit the website:

<http://www.chelseaumc.org/about-us/vital-church-ministry/index.html>

If you have questions for the VCM Teams, please contact: info@chelseaumc.org

Vital Church Ministry, “Understanding Church Dynamics” Workshop Series

“Relief for Stiff Necks and Hardened Hearts”
Skills for Neutralizing History
in Personal Relationships

Friday, March 15th, 6:30 – 8:00 pm
AND Saturday, March 16th, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
(Lunch provided)

Workshop Purpose...

This workshop provides participants with insight and skills to help transform difficult personal relationships.

This Workshop Will Help You Learn...

- How to move relationships from hurt and negativity toward constructive reconciliation.
- Techniques relevant to all relationships: friends, family, co-workers, church members.

Specific Skills Include...

- Releasing a relationship burdened with hoarding of past hurts.
- Helping a worsening relationship to move from reverse to neutral.
- Letting go of bitter memories from the past
- Allowing hurt individuals to feel heard
- Letting go of past hurts

Avoiding attempts to negotiate the past or “figure out what happened.”

Content is drawn from the work of the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center (Impeacecenter.org), a respected authority in teaching practical approaches to Christ-based peacemaking. Everyone aged middle school and older is welcome to participate!

Led by Naomi Garcia, our Vital Church coach, and Gerry Conti of Ypsilanti First UMC.