

VCM UPDATE

Issue 2 - April 2019



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A Word from Pastor Joy

Signs of spring are emerging in the natural world: crocus, forsythia, daffodils, tiny leaves on bushes and willow trees. Signs of new life and fresh perspectives are emerging within our congregation as well: 68 different people

were involved in the various workshops related to our Vital Church Initiatives (Vision, Conflict Transformation, Behavioral Covenant, Neutralizing History); our various teams are moving forward and bearing fruit; we are learning to challenge our assumptions and ask different questions.

God is doing many new things in our midst. Thanks be to God! And thank you for your prayers, participation and investment for continued vitality in ministry.

-Pastor Joy



Chelsea First United Methodist Church

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Vital Church Ministry Team Updates

Prescription Implementation Team

The VCM Prescription Implementation Team (PIT) has the responsibility to keep the congregation moving toward accomplishing the Consultation Report Prescriptions that were endorsed via an overwhelming “yes” vote in May 2018.

The Prescriptions themselves detailed several Teams to be created and populated, and the PIT is excited to report that these Teams have been functioning for the past several months and are beginning to address some of the specific Prescriptions assigned to them. The actions you see detailed in this letter are evidence of some of the hard work these Teams are accomplishing! In addition to the PIT, there were six Teams formed: First Impressions Team, Outreach Ministries Team, Communications Team, Spiritual Formation Team, Nominations and Leadership Development Team, and Worship Design Team.

The Prescription Implementation Team has also been busy coordinating the various Workshops held over the past several months. Through these Workshops we learned many helpful skills to help us be an ever-more healthy congregation. Thank you to all who participated; we hope you found them to be enlightening, insightful, and at times challenging. The PIT is actively looking for ways to implement the learnings and outcomes of these Workshops.

We look forward to sharing the fruits of these Teams’ efforts as we all continue the work God has laid out in front of us.

Spiritual Formation Team

The Spiritual Formation Team (SFT) has met several times and is working toward drafting its comprehensive proposal for discipleship formation at CFUMC. We have broken the task into several pieces, and have focused our attention in the last month on several of these.

- We are reviewing a draft proposal for adult education offerings. We’re continuing to think about the best way to provide staff and lay leadership for these offerings.
- We reviewed the children’s spiritual formation plan.
- We completed an inventory of all programming at the church, and we have begun drafting a proposal for connecting existing and proposed programs into a comprehensive discipleship plan modeled on the UMC’s baptismal vows.



Outreach Missions Team

The Outreach Missions Team (OMT) has completed the majority of our planned interviews with community leaders, gaining insight into the question "What do you see as the needs in our community?" Our next steps are to study, distill, and summarize what we learned from the conversations, with the goal of presenting opportunities for action, partnerships, and advocacy to the congregation, and determining which ones people are most fired up about.

First Impressions Team

The First Impressions Team (FIT) is ready to implement several of their action steps that were recently approved by the Implementations Team. There are 3 new work groups, or committees, that are in the process of being formed. They include:

- **The Lobby Re-configuration and Welcome Center committee.** Megan Kiser and Teresa Steklac will be leading this work and are seeking members to serve on this committee. Their work includes the formation of a Welcome Center Area, as well as re-configuring the lobby to provide a more welcoming first impression.



- **The CFUMC Ambassadors.** This committee will be comprised of church member “ambassadors,” who would be responsible for greeting new visitors and others during coffee hour, as well as providing follow up connections with new visitors. Julie Deppner will be developing this committee and looking for church members to serve as our church Ambassadors.

- **Exterior/Interior Signage Committee.** The Mystery Guests reported having a difficult time identifying the main entrance of the church, the church itself, parking, and interior directions to the sanctuary, social areas, classrooms, etc. This committee will be getting pricing and input on improving our exterior and interior signage in and around the church building. Church staff members, Trustees and members of the FIT and CT (Communications Team) will serve on this committee.



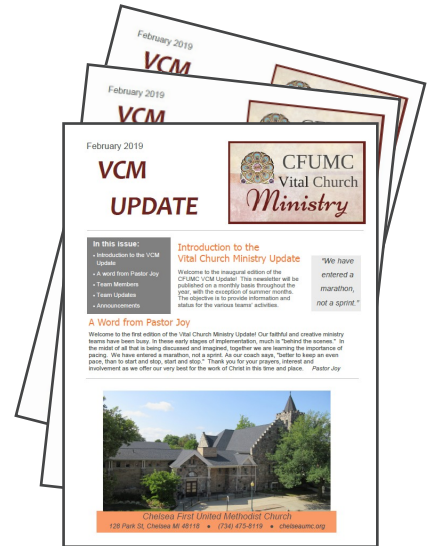
Some of the team’s future work includes working on new protocols and training for Greeters and Ushers when assisting new visitors. These new processes will be implemented after moving forward with the Lobby Design/Welcome Center and Ambassador work.

Communications Team

During March 2019, the Communications Team (CT) dealt with the following:

- helped launch the new monthly Vital Church Ministries Update newsletter (posted on website, emailed to congregation, and hard copies available in the Grams Hall coat rack hallway)
- continued evaluating the effectiveness of the various church communication methods
- fielded a suggestion for a visitor/new member brochure (suggestion to be forwarded to the First Impressions Team), and
- fielded a suggestion to publish an updated, non-picture member directory.

The church is acquiring new software to support membership information and financial giving, with training and implementation scheduled this summer. The software would support publication of a new directory, perhaps this fall. Additionally, the software vendor ultimately may house our website, so we are awaiting staff training before exploring more format revisions to our website. In the meantime, staff on our team continued revising the website to ensure all ministries and programs have current, up-to-date information.



Announcements

Ad Council Town Hall Meeting & Potluck

Sunday, May 19 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 15.

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