

Ad Council Meeting, 3/12/2020
7:30-9pm, Lower Level Conf Room

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. E-Distribution and Approval of Minutes – Feedback?
3. Consider Appointment of an Ad Council Vice Chair
4. Coronavirus
5. Finance Update
6. SPRC Update -- Open Position for Director of Finance and Stewardship Ministries
7. Church-Wide Objectives (See “Big Picture Issues -- Objectives,” attached):
 - a. Selection / Prioritization
 - b. Launch
 - c. Communication with Staff
 - d. Accountability
8. Summer Worship Schedule
9. Future Meetings and Events:
 - a. Thursday, April 9, 7:30-9pm Ad Council Meeting
 - b. Sunday, April 26, 5-7pm – Ad Council Town Hall Potluck
 - c. **Another General Conference Q&A? When?**
 - d. Thursday, May 14, 7:30-9pm Ad Council Meeting – **MOVE TO MAY 21??**
 - e. **Possible Church Conference near to June 15**
 - f. Please hold every 2nd Thursday for possible Ad Council meeting
10. Closing Prayer

BIG PICTURE ISSUES – OBJECTIVES

Brainstormed List as of 12/19/2019 (**With additions as of 2/13/2020**):

1. Clarify our policy aspirations regarding LGBTQ marriage and ordination and consider adopting a public statement that explicitly welcomes LGBTQ visitors and members. These objectives must be pursued with broad congregational input.
 - **New: is this part of a larger need to clarify and publicly declare our theological stance?**
2. Identify target demographic groups based on MissionInsite and implement changes to worship, hospitality, and outreach as appropriate to their needs [with VCM's PIT team]
 - **New: Focus on Elderly (with potential for multi-generational mentoring)**
 - **New: Revamped 11am service and/or new service not on Sun am**
 - **New: One other new focus demographic; can new service also address them?**
3. **New: Launch a marketing effort – build community awareness of who we are. Possibilities:**
 - **Ads**
 - **Publicity for our Local Mission Tithe efforts**
 - **Publicity for new worship launch**
 - **Publicity for LGBTQ policies / declarations, if any**
 - **Bridge Events (per VCM prescriptions)**
 - **Speaker Series (analogous to Music Series)**
4. Implement an ongoing method for identifying spiritual gifts and connecting volunteers with opportunities for service that use those gifts and meet program needs (or delegate this task – Nominations and Leadership Development Team?) [**Retreat generated some ideas here**]
5. Solicit proposals for the use of the sanctuary renovation capital campaign tithe from community partners and disperse the money [This is on Finance agenda]
6. Support the administration of more events focused on intergenerational fun and fellowship [e.g., Game Night]
7. Support the administration of ongoing small groups for building community and spiritual connection [“All-Church” Lenten Study]
8. Support the administration of active mission efforts recommended by the Outreach Ministries Team [Local Mission Tithe Proposal, Lenten Study, Rev Rodney & Mission Team]
9. **New: Improve Safe Sanctuaries policy and/or compliance**
10. **New: Support to Food Ministries to ease volunteer stresses and constraints**

BIG PICTURE ISSUES – CONTINUING DISCUSSION ON GAY CLERGY & MARRIAGE, LGBTQIA+ WELCOME

1. Considerations for Ad Council:
 - What does the congregation need to hear from us now?
 - What actions/decisions should Ad Council make under its own authority? What decisions should devolve to congregational vote?
 - Is there benefit to a congregational survey or “straw poll?”
 - In what ways has the denominational turmoil been holding us back? What clarity or actions would get us “unstuck?”
 - Timing/Speed -- What actions, if any, are needed during 2020? Before Gen Conference (May)?
 - What is our attitude toward staying within the letter of the Book of Discipline, vs some measure of “ecclesial disobedience?”
 - What can we do to minimize pain and disruption?

2. Examples of actions taken by other congregations:
 - Offer activities to help with congregational and personal discernment
 - Do a congregational survey or “straw poll”
 - Develop an internal / congregational statement of policy intent
 - Implement new policies -- e.g., allow same-sex marriages to be performed in our building
 - Develop public-facing statements of LGBTQ support (welcome statement, rainbow banner, etc.)
 - Join Reconciling Network (discernment / education / advocacy)
 - Issue public statements on CFUMC policy intent and actions
 - Focused prayer efforts, either as part of discernment or advocacy.