

Ad Council Meeting, 4/16/2020

7:30-9pm via Zoom Conference

Proposed Agenda as of 4/6/2020

1. Opening Prayer
2. Impacts of Public Health Emergency:
 - a. PPP Application; Income/Expenses -- Kerry
 - b. Staffing – Joy
 - c. Facility Use -- Dana
 - d. Mission Tithe RFP -- Edie
 - e. COVID Response Team -- Sandy
3. Church-Wide Objectives -- summary of ratings exercise from 3/12/2020 meeting
4. Ramifications of General Conference postponement
5. Qs on LGBTQ Stance
6. Future Meetings:
 - a. Thursday, May 14, 7:30-9pm Ad Council Meeting
 - b. Church Conference (June?)
 - c. Please hold every 2nd Thursday for possible Ad Council meeting
7. Closing Prayer

BIG PICTURE ISSUES – OBJECTIVES

Brainstormed List as of 12/19/2019, with additions as of 2/13/2020 and with ratings summary:

Top Tier:

- (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.
- (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].

Second Tier:

- (3) Launch a messaging / marketing effort – build community awareness of who we are.
- (8) Support the administration of active mission efforts recommended by the Outreach Ministries Team

Third Tier:

- (9) Improve Safe Sanctuaries policy and/or compliance
- (4) Implement an ongoing method for identifying spiritual gifts and connecting volunteers with opportunities for service that use those gifts and meet program needs [with Nominations and Leadership Development Team]

Almost Universally Seen as “Important” but not “Essential”:

- (7) Support the administration of ongoing small groups for building community and spiritual connection

Bottom Tier:

- (5) Solicit proposals for the use of the sanctuary renovation capital campaign tithe from community partners and disperse the money [Outreach Team has distributed an RFP as of March 2020]
- (6) Support the administration of more events focused on intergenerational fun and fellowship [e.g., Game Night]
- (10) 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.

Questions for discussion on 4/16/2020 IF TIME:

1. What is your personal preference regarding this church’s stance on gay clergy, gay marriage?
2. What is your sense of the congregation’s desires?
3. Does Ad Council decide and declare? Or seek congregational input? If input do you mean a vote?
4. What about our church’s compliance with denomination rules?