

Chelsea First United Methodist Church

Administrative Council Minutes

August 12, 2021

7:30-8:10pm

In Attendance: Edie Wiarda, Mike Vanderspool, Nolan Peterson, Joy Barrett, Heather Hay, John Seto, Charles Schmunk, Kerry Plank

Guests: Jeanne Franks, Dawn Goellner

1. Opening Prayer – Edie Wiarda

There has been much thought and concern in regards to the church, as well as so much of our culture, doing a type of sorting process. There is a dividing line and people feel like they have to put themselves on one side or the other. We can look for superficial signs to determine where people belong and it can make us feel more comfortable sorting ourselves. The church calls us to look deeper. This relates to a commentary inserted after a devotion on Micah 6:6-8:

⁶With what shall I come before the LORD
and bow down before the exalted God?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousand rivers of olive oil?

Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

⁸He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

The commentary following the devotion cites Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a Lutheran Pastor during Nazi Germany, who was caught up in a plot to assassinate Hitler, and was then tried and executed. He talks about how in “normal” times, when people who break the law are ostracized (like prostitutes), then Christ’s gospel is most clearly revealed to people who recognize themselves as sinners in this way. But when times are “out of joint,” and “lawlessness and wickedness triumph in complete unrestraint”, then it is to people who are willing to suffer for justice, truth and humanity to whom Christ’s message becomes most clear. He says this is a paradox: “Christ belongs to both [as people] who in their wickedness and in their goodness have fallen away He summons them back so that they shall no longer be “good” and “evil”, but justified and sanctified sinners.”

2. SPRC – John Seto

- a. Music Ministry Director Position
 - i. Michelle McLaughlin is leading the committee in this job search.
 - ii. 15 applications were received and seven candidates were vetted and met the minimum requirements for the position.
 - iii. The applications of these seven candidates have been sent on to members of the congregation who are involved in and are knowledgeable about the music ministry.
 - iv. Three-four candidates will be chosen from this pool for zoom interviews and then one-two candidates will move forward in the process.
- b. Communications Position
 - i. Theresa Plank is leading the committee in this job search.
 - ii. Several people from the church family have expressed interest in the position.
 - iii. One person from this group of candidates is being interviewed.
 - iv. The posting will also be renewed on Indeed.
- c. Clergy performance evaluations have begun in preparation for the Charge Conference.

3. Finance – Kerry Plank

- a. Endowment Policy Changes
 - i. Committee has voted and will be bringing changes forward to the Charge Conference
 - ii. The changes will allow the committee to more easily access funds.
 - iii. There will be more specifics presented to Ad Council next month.
- b. Operating expenses
 - i. Income and expenses are about the same at this time.
 - ii. The surplus is currently about \$209,000.
- c. Mortgage Balance
 - i. The mortgage balance was paid off last month.
 - ii. A tracking error was discovered in the spreadsheet.
 - iii. At last month's report, the campaign was oversubscribed by \$32,000. Upon payment and reconciliation, the overage will be more in the range of \$18,000.
 - iv. The Trustees have been notified so that they can plan accordingly in using the surplus.
- d. Discussion
 - i. Edie-If things had gone according to plan we would have had a Music Director and a Communications Director for the entire year, which is how the budget was originally planned. We would be operating at a deficit. We would be making a case to the congregation to increase giving. We don't have a "track record" of

the Communication Position that would help justify going for an aggressive pledge campaign.

- ii. John-If the original plan for the campaign was to look at what we've done with the Communications Position we could instead look at what we've done with everyone coming back and focus on this as a platform. The Communications Position is an unknown so we may have to delay.
- iii. Edie-We typically have a stewardship campaign in September, October, and November. There is a definite end date to this so it is not an option to delay.
- iv. Kerry-The challenge is that the operation budget is nebulous. When we have something concrete, like the mortgage balance, then people do respond to it. Is there something else to get people excited about?
- v. Mike-We still have that case. We still have the same thing in front of us that we had 18 months ago. We still have the same things that we wanted to do. The fact that we have a healthy balance doesn't mean that we have to back off. The Communications role isn't where we want it to be but we still know where we want to go.
- vi. Nolan-This is the right time for people to want this Communications role. We have people worshipping in different places and in different ways. Maybe we advertise the Communications role as a unifying position for where we are today.

4. Safe Sanctuaries Policy Revision – Edie Wiarda

- a. Would like to make a recommendation to send this to the Trustees for approval.
- b. There has been added language that allows exceptions for the Senior Pastor to work with Trustees.
- c. There are forms in the appendices that can be amended by staff, which is standard in these types of policies.
- d. A Safe Sanctuaries Committee will be established to review the policy in an ongoing manner.
- e. Discussion
 - i. Charles-The 32-page document is a lot to be consolidated into one overview document. We are asking a lot of a committee to be responsible for this policy.
 - ii. Joy-All of this has existed already. The revision began a year ago in March because we needed to become compliant. This has been reviewed by many people and has been vetted and compared to the conference policy. We have to determine who the "hands-on" group of people will be reviewing, updating, and ensuring that we are staying compliant.

- iii. Edie-Let's set aside the discussion of establishing the committee. Are we ready to make a recommendation to send this to the Trustees?
- iv. Charles-Should the Trustees be putting this responsibility on us?
- v. Joy-Ad Council establishes policy.
- vi. Edie-I'm anxious about this because we are about to start the new school year without a current and updated policy. Discussions show that this may not be perfect but can be followed and complied with. I would like to make it official. There can be a process for continual improvement that can be done later.
- vii. Joy-I move for the adoption of the Safe Sanctuaries Policy as written.
 1. Kerry seconds.
 2. Further Discussion
 - a. John-What was the initial idea in sending this to Trustees?
 - b. Edie-I was under the impression that any policy with legal ramification is supposed to be part of Trustees.
 - c. Mike-What are the Nominations Committees responsibilities in establishing the review committee?
 - d. Edie – to identify potential members and nominate them. No oversight of the committee. The committee's charge would come from Ad Council and Sr. Pastor.
 3. Motion passes unanimously

Upcoming Meetings:

- September 9 – Regular Ad Council meeting; Website Demo, Endowment Policy
- October 10 – Charge Conference
 - Vote on proposed changes to Endowment Policy
 - Changes to Official Membership List
- Tentatively propose cancelling October Ad Council meeting