

Council Retreat & LCI Stakeholders Meeting
Saturday, August 24, 2019
Location: LCI Fellowship Hall
8:45—noon: Council Members
1:00—3:00 pm: LCI Stakeholders

Council Retreat Agenda

Attendees: Carol Huegli (2020), Jeff deRopp (2020), Lori Martin Bodhiprasart (2021), Paul Kolarik (2021), David Hartley (2022), Karl Larson (2022), Becky Linvill (2022), Pr. Dan Smith

Absent: David Kukis (2020) & Craig Copelan (2021)

President Carol Huegli convened the Council Retreat at 9:00 a.m. focusing on the meeting goals of: 1) becoming a functioning group 2) Identifying areas of focus for the coming year. Pastor Dan led the group in an icebreaker followed by Scripture reading and discussion. He then led a discussion on grace and casting out our fears; closing with an examination of what is a Council and Congregation. The Council discussed Council Member responsibilities in this regard including our representation of the church body.

Carol Huegli then facilitated the balance of the morning with a review of the past Council Year goals and consideration of what we learned from our past year. Observations included success in increasing prayerful practices within the Council meetings and wider church body. Less progress occurred in the other goals, providing room for improvement in setting goals. Improvements agreed upon: use “focus areas”, not goals, as the working terminology; recognize focus areas often cover multiple years; be mindful that Council has 12 meetings per year of two hours each that includes ongoing church business; and include prayerful practices as an ongoing area of focus.

The Council identified the following areas of focus following discussion :

- Improve the health of the congregation
- Center Council efforts in prayer, and act as Christ’s body in our work
- Continue past Council year focus on these specific projects:
 - Renewing Worship/Sanctuary Renovation project
 - Endowment Fund & Committee
 - Solar Task Force/Solar Panels (installation should begin by the end of 2019)

To improve the health of the congregation, Council members agreed approaching the priority included the following:

- Reversing a downward trend of attendance
- Exploring our faith stories – how do we meet Jesus in life? How do we share our faith with our neighbors?
- Becoming more welcoming to families
- Improving finances
- Fostering social connections via:
 - small groups
 - community events
 - advocacy
 - community dialogue/learning events (hosting)

The Council agreed upon how they would report at the Stakeholders Meeting of the 2019-2020 focus areas. Pastor Dan closed the retreat in prayer. Carol adjourned the retreat and the Council broke for lunch.

LCI Stakeholders Meeting Agenda

Attendees: Pr. Dan Smith, Lindsey Burns, Carol Huegeli, Jeff deRopp, Lori Martin Bodhiprasart, Paul & Ellen Kolarik, David Hartley, Karl Larson, Becky & Carl Linvill, , Jill Van Zanten, Vern & Marcia Holmes, Ed Green, Beth Tanke, Elaine Gloystein, Tom & Phyllis Farver, Jenny Fortuna, Karen Slinkard, Richard & Patricia Wheeler.

President Huegeli opened the LCI Stakeholders Meeting welcoming attendees and sharing the afternoon agenda and process for the meeting. The meeting goals were: 1) Share 2019-20 Council Goals 2) Respond to Questions 3) Identify what's missing

Pastor Dan provided an opening prayer and summarized the Council Retreat activities emphasizing the role of prayer and Scripture in the activities. This included a discussion on grace and casting out our fears; closing with an examination of what is a Council and Congregation. Carol shared how the Council arrived upon the 2019-2020 goals. Paul Kolarik reported on the overarching priority of improving the health of the congregation.

The attendees then listened to a report of continuing projects: Solar Usage Task Force (TF)—Carl Linvill & Paul Kolarik; Sanctuary Renewal/Renovation TF—Ed Green; and, Endowment Committee—Paul Kolarik. Lindsey Burns and Pastor Dan shared the 2019-2020 plan for education and learning including a new worship experience called “Rooted”, oriented toward children and youth. Jeff deRopp then shared the new LCI Web site.

Discussion was then opened to the attendees asking what questions do you have; and, what community needs are missing and how is God calling upon us to address them. The group continued to build upon how the health of the congregation could be improved. Suggestions included:

- Invite friends & family to Committee Events including Property and Social Justice
- Host family events such as a Camping Trip in addition to Mt. Cross and Holden Village
- Bring back the Talent Show
- Host field trips: Yolo County Food Bank, Davis Recycling Center, St. John's Plates/Instructional/Rehabilitation Facility, Crisis Nursery, and other non-profits LCI is supporting
- Publish events through the Davis Enterprise, UC Davis Bulletin Board
- Consider a single Sunday service

Pro's and con's of these suggestions were discussed with an acknowledgement that the path will be difficult and having this as the overarching priority for Council is important.

Next steps include that discussion on this priority, development of action steps and communicating to the congregation is critical acknowledging that all LCI members have a role in this effort. Pastor Dan then closed the Stakeholders Meeting with prayer.