

Platte Woods United Methodist Church

Meeting Minutes of the Leadership Council (LC)

March 11, 2019

Present:

LC: Marc Evans*, Erin Cox, Christie Dade, Warren Dudley, Jamie Grayson, Michael Hundt, Andrea Hunter, Kirby McDaniel, Al Minnis

Incoming LC: Amy Schemenauer

Staff: Steve Breon, Lori Bogart

The PWUMC LC was called to order at 6:30PM on March 11, 2019 by Marc Evans.

Minutes: Ms. Bogart identified an erroneous "leftover" bullet of information from the prior January minutes that needed to be deleted. It was moved, seconded, and the minutes of the February 11, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved as amended.

New Business: (Steve Breon)

- Discussion about General Conference (GC) Special Session in St. Louis update from Feb 23-26.
 - Dr. Breon attended, but was an alternate and did not have the opportunity to vote.
 - The "Traditional" plan passed, and is now with the Judicial Council. Dr. Breon shared that his personal intent is to continue to follow the Book of Discipline as defined by the denomination. He observed that the next General Council is in 2020 and it is likely that the same topic will be revisited.
 - Dr. Breon asked if any LC members have received input from congregation members. Various LC participants provided the following feedback that has been heard:
 - People want a question-answer opportunity since the Monday night update on March 4 was not interactive, only information
 - Some congregants have shared their view that they feel the current GC decision is in conflict with the mission to reach all people
 - Some have shared general discomfort/anxiety about the perceived uncertainty and concern that this not overshadow the vitality and focus of our local congregation
 - The Council discussed additional feedback and points of view that have been brought to their attention.
 - Dr. Breon noted that he intends to host an additional update in the coming weeks, and will solicit email questions in advance in order to best consolidate the general questions and be prepared with responses. The LC agreed that this would be a good next step.
 - The LC discussed the local decision making process should any GC actions necessitate local decisions. Dr. Breon clarified that the senior pastor role in that scenario is leadership to help the church make the best decision it can make in the context of our faith and mission. Decision process differs by proposal/initiative.
 - The LC discussed the desire to put out a statement from the LC itself. Mr. Evans and Mr. Grayson took an action item to draft a statement for the rest of the council to approve. Goal is to publish prior to the next meeting on April 8.

Vital Signs Dashboard (Lori Bogart)

- Ms. Bogart shared the most current measures and data for 2019-2022 for 8 areas: Worship Attendance, Children Sunday AM attendance, Student Sunday AM/PM unique attendance, Guest Retention, Giving Units, % Serving, % in Groups, and Professions of Faith. Year end 2018 and monthly YTD 2019 results were included.

- Guest retention is emerging as improving. The hypothesis is that this is credited to the new/changed efforts by Harmony Eccles to achieve personalized contact with guests after their visit, and recent 2019 process changes by Jessica Richard.
- The LC discussed the importance of insuring the calculation methods for each measure stay consistent longitudinally; for example, either online worship viewers are included, or they aren't, but it can't swing from month to month. The LC requested that online worship participant numbers be broken out from totals.

Strategic Planning/Unstuck Group Initiatives Update:

- **Discipleship Pathway:** Mr. Dudley shared that this team intends to communicate Gather Grow Give Go as the pathway. Developing the communication plan now. Focus is on connecting people to groups, recruiting/developing new group leaders, and evaluating/enhancing group leader tools/software.
- **First Impressions:** Mr. Hundt shared that the Hospitality training luncheon canceled for weather on February 17, is now scheduled for March 31. This is intended to kickoff the "reset the mindset" to be more focused on the visitor experience. Signage updates are planned, especially for parking & entrance, as is a first-time guest welcome area/kiosk staffed with volunteers aligned with the target demographic. The team is working on re-imagining the Children's ministry wing layout as the current traffic patterns are not conducive to an optimal visitor experience.
- **Worship:** Ms. Bogart shared that next steps are still a survey or means of gathering community and congregation input, and also to visit growing modern congregations in the area to observe how their Worship experiences are executed. Have not made progress, but have 45 days left and plan to accelerate. Also adding Walter Bryant and Mat Thornton to the workgroup.

January Financials: (Lori Bogart)

- Ms. Bogart shared the January financials as prepared by Misty Wilkinson. Not surprisingly, snow removal continues to run over budget, offset by utilities running below budget.

Other Business

- Mr. Evans informed the council that he and Dr. Breon intend to collaborate on LC agendas in advance of future meetings. He asked that LC members send him any desired topics for the April 8 meeting (and future) no later than the Monday one week prior to the scheduled meeting.

Adjournment

- Mr. Hundt moved, Mr. Grayson seconded, all approved adjournment. The next meeting of the Leadership Council is scheduled for April 8, 2019 at 6:30PM.

Minutes submitted by: Kirby McDaniel, Secretary