

## **Session Meeting Update, January 10, 2017**

An Annual Joint Elder Deacon Meeting took place from 7:00-8:15pm. At the end there was an informal motion to meet twice a year as it was enjoyable, helpful, and instructive about where we are as a church. Our time together included devotions, prayer, getting to know each other, and concluded with a formal time of Listening Circles. Going forward session elders hope to forge a deeper connection with the deacons. Ideas include an elder or two attending future deacon meetings. Pastor Jesse is on point to organize plans.

### **Session meeting highlights:**

The strategic working groups discussed in December have been formed. They are addressing the following needs of our congregation:

1. Listening Circles Working Group – to distill what is heard at the Session Listening Circles into a report for the February session meeting. This group is led by Pastor Jesse and includes: Dave Pimblett, Martha Carlson, Lee Sundquist and Stacy Kutz from our staff.
2. Road Map Working Group – to consider the possibility of working with consultants to coach a leadership group, to aid in crafting the Church Mission Study, and to make recommendations to session about formation of the Pastor Nominating Committee/PNC. This group is co-led by Pastor Shari and Pastor Jesse and includes Nick Upton, Sue Nealson, Greg Hjort, Martha Carlson, Mark Koelling, and Jim Campbell.
3. The Fellowship Community Working Group – to attend the annual national gathering of the Fellowship Community and to make recommendations to session about forming a new mission affinity group. This group is led by Pastor Shari and includes Ryan Avery, Dave Pimblett, Nick Upton, and Pastor Jesse.

### **Additional actions taken:**

- Stewardship and Finance Department motion to fund Mission's Committee request passed.
- Discipleship Department motion to upgrade Rap Hall and Room 6 passed.
- Outreach Department request for Mission funding passed.
- Spiritual Life Department service times for Lent and Holy Week passed. Song book, preaching series, and worship leadership needs were discussed.

Report from Shelley Dahl, Committee on Ministry/COM liaison to West Side from the Seattle Presbytery informed the session that COM co-moderator Rev. Chris Pritchett, John Knox Pres, and Shelley Dahl, UPC elder, liaison to West Side, met with Rev. Paul Smith on December 19, 2016 at the Presbytery offices. It was a very cordial and

productive time together. Paul expressed confidence in the leadership of those moving West Side forward.