

Session Highlights

April 11, 2017

Session debrief about Congregational Conversation #2, and plans for #3, and #4

- Sunday April 9th session hosted the second of four Congregational Conversations, in Howell Auditorium, during the middle hour. About 120 people were in attendance.
- Opening prayer began with a unison reading of Philippians 1:9-11
- Pastor Nominating Committee/PNC formation process was discussed, members were thanked for making recommendations. A Pre-PNC gathering will take place at 4 pm April 9th. All who were recommended have been invited. Others may also attend. The session was videotaped as some of those recommended are out of town today.
- All present participated in small group conversations to discuss the type of questions pastoral candidates ask PNC members.
- Updated [Road Map](#) to Calling the Next Pastor was shared.
- Road Map Working Group of session includes: elders Jim Campbell, Martha Carlson, Greg Hjort, Sue Neelson, Nick Upton, Mark Koelling, Pastor Jesse, and is led by Pastor Shari.
- Pastor Shari presented information about the upcoming Church Mission Study and the church wide survey taking place in April.
- The CAT Congregational Assessment tool will launch today and wrap up May 1st. ([click here to learn more](#)) The goal is to attain not less than 70% participating (based on average worship attendance). Karol Aronson talked about survey logistics including providing access to computers at church for members to use.
- Pastor Jesse talked briefly about West Side's affiliation with the Fellowship Community including a survey question being asked to seek everyone's input. He also mentioned plans to use a Fellowship curriculum on Christian Community in the near future.
- Elder Ryan Avery shared financial updates from the Stewardship Department. Total unified giving through March 2017 is -\$71,000 short compared the Funding Guide. This is -\$13,000 less compared to last year at this time.
- In closing Pastor Shari answered questions about youth ministry and prayer on Sunday mornings. Answers: we are in the process of hiring summer youth interns. We hope to introduce them at the Congregational Conversation on Sunday May 14th. Through June, prayer on Sunday mornings be available at the conclusion of each service in the front of the sanctuary (following the postlude). In June this outcome of this new approach will be evaluated.
- Congregational Conversation #3 is May 14th.
- Congregational Conversation #4 will take place on Sunday September 10th.

Session Debrief and the Pre-PNC Gathering April 9th at 4 pm

- The purpose of this gathering was to offer information, insights, and wisdom about the role and responsibilities involved in serving on a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- A panel of speakers shared their experience serving on PNC's including: Craig McMinn – APNC West Side, Malcom McLellan – Chair of the PNC that recently called a new head of staff (Sr. Pastor) to Mercer Island PC, and Eliana Maxim – Associate Executive Presbyter of the Seattle Presbytery. Q&A followed.

- Session elders then hosted small group discussions to practice answering the type of questions asked by pastoral candidates. Lively discussion ensued!
- Meeting closed by Pastor Shari outlining a process of spiritual discernment to determine if they wished to be considered for the PNC or not.

Process to form the PNC

A special called session meeting has been called from Wednesday April 19th from 7-9 pm. The Nominating Committee is invited attend. The goal of this meeting is to work together to create a slate of candidates for election to serve on the PNC. A subsequent meeting may be called if needed.

A Congregational Meeting will be called to elect the PNC once a representative slate of candidates has been identified. (Plans for a congregational meeting for April 23rd have been tabled.)

Pastor Shari has met with prospective members and is forming a class for new members to begin Sunday morning April 23rd.

Session approved the hiring of summer youth interns and a summer assistant director to support Children and Youth Ministry.

Session approved a list of guest preachers to preach at West Side in the spring series called Living in the New Creation: a series on 1st Peter – guest preachers are Bryan Burton on May 14th, Scott Berthiaume on May 28th, Tom Speckhardt on June 11th, and Marta Bennett on June 25th.

Session approved Sunday June 4th as Mission Sunday.

Session approved using the recommendation to not host a music Sunday this June. In its place the staff is to employ the creative energies and talent of the congregation throughout the summer months.