

Highlights of the West Side Session Meeting of 7 February 2017

Meeting began with scripture reflection from Job 12:13-16 and James 1:5-8 about seeking God's wisdom. After time for personal reflection elders spent time in small groups praying for our church and tonight's meeting.

Listening Circles Working Group reported a summary of their findings to session about what was heard in the 10 Listening Circle events hosted in December and January. This team will host a Congregation Conversation to share the results on March 12th. Team is led by Pastor Jesse and includes elders Dave Pimblett, Martha Carlson, Lee Sundquist and staff member Stacy Kutz

The following recommendations will begin in March:

- On Sundays specific elders will be available near the Welcome Center for listening and conversation after the worship services.
- Monthly the session will host Congregational Conversations during the middle hour, to keep the congregation up to date about the interim the process and issues vital to the life of the church such as, but not limited to the Church Mission Study, formation of the Pastor Nominating Committee, church finances, the Fellowship Community, mission affinity engagement, and summer worship service times. There will be time for Q & A and feedback.
- New communication mechanisms will be in place so that congregants can submit feedback, questions, or concerns to session. Feedback shall include name and contact information.
- Road Map Working Group is to move ahead with making recommendations to session about: how to conduct the Church Mission Study, and the process to form the Pastor Nominating Committee.
- Fellowship Working Group is to attend the national gathering, recommend to session how to form a mission affinity group, and regularly communicate with the congregation about the Fellowship.
- Continue to highlight ministry events which encourage the WSPC family to spend time together in intergenerational/all-church activities, programs, discipleship, outreach, and fellowship.
- Offering childcare to support key initiatives is needed.

Departments Updates:

- Stewardship & Finance – after reviewing financial data for the month of January and noting the downward trend of giving and giving units, the session discussed best ways to inform the congregation and also making it easier to give such as printing a QR Code in bulletin, encourage automated giving such as ACH, and discussing finances at the March Congregational Conversation.
- Spiritual Life is analyzing worship attendance data and discussing the possibility of offering one worship service in July, Aug, and Labor Day weekend. This topic will be included in the March Congregational Conversation.
- Spiritual Life invites all departments to look at *The Story* as a possible all-church preaching and teaching series in the future. www.thestory.com

Additional Reports

- Nominating Committee of the Congregation is actively seeking elders and deacons to serve as church officers in the upcoming program year.
- Three elders will attend the February 22 [Special Called Seattle Presbytery meeting](#). The purpose of this meeting is to hear and act on the recommendation of the Coordinating Council to approve the sale of the Steel Lake Presbyterian Church property.
- Smith family prayer requests will be included in “Our Family” section of the worship bulletin as they make requests. Additionally, a Smith Family care team will be set up when/if they request.
- Clerk of Records reports approved (part of consent agenda) with appreciation to elder Debbie Clark for catching us up to date. Worship and Children and Youth Sunday School attendance is now available for use in the Church Mission Study.
- Use of consent agenda gave us considerable time to focus on Working Groups. Pastor Shari expressed appreciation to the leaders involved in this ‘extra’ interim work, including the support of our staff.
- Pastor Shari will be away on study leave March 2-6 in Washington DC and 14-21 at a Presbyterian Credo Conference in Louisiana.
- West Side is seeing new faces in worship. This is a delight to us. As a way of sharing about ourselves Shari is asking session, staff, and the congregation to share a ‘glimpse’ of their story about West Side. Click here to learn more, or contact the church office.
- Session approved a proposal from Pastoral Care Team to work with Samaritan Center to offer counseling services on site at WSPC. Formalities to be concluded in a timely manner. Pastor Jesse to oversee.

- We still need about 8 contributors to this project. Please refer to the [write up on our website](#). Everyone is encourage to sign up to get a daily reflection in your email inbox. It will be available as hard copies as well as online.
- On Thursday evening, February 16th at 8-9:30pm, West Side hosts our fifth meeting for Pup Theology at Beveridge Pub Place at Morgan Junction. This outreach continues to use Rev. Bryan Berghoef's book, *Pub Theology 101* to formulate discussion questions. Attendance has ranged from 10 to 23 people. All are welcome.

Thank you for reading this session update. Please keep the session in your prayers as they faithfully and prayerfully lead our congregation in this time of interim ministry.

Pastor Shari