

## DEACONS MEETING MINUTES

11/7/2024

**PRESENT:** David Jones, Host, Judy Haupt, Scribe, Caroline Mack, Leslie Fraser, Facilitator, Bruce Bennett, Kare Marshall, Wendy Pree, and Alice Barrett per Zoom.

**OPENING PRAYER:** David

**REVIEW MINUTES** of 10/3/2024. Approved with change in Pastoral Coverage as Ann Hallstein and Nancy Sykes will NOT be able to cover sermons in the winter months.

**PRAYER CARDS:** Stein F. – Cont. Healing > Kare

Lori Wyman – Son with health issues > Judy

McChesney's – Kare

Barabara Rowe – sister, Diane passed > Caroline

Ann Cullen – Sister with Cancer > Leslie

George Butler – Lymes > Bruce

Terry Ogawa – TY > Leslie

Nancy Sykes – Welcome back > Kare

Pam Snow – Good to see you again > Leslie

Hetty S. – Death in family and sick with pneumonia > Kare

Ashfield Fire Dept. Stay safe > Judy

**DAVID'S UPDATE:** The meeting was filled with Deacons sharing their feelings re: the recent election for the better part of an hour. David requested folks' input in order to carefully craft his sermon for this Sunday. Acknowledging as to how many emotions folks are experiencing, being inclusive to all no matter how they voted, asking "What is God's prayer for everyone?" Leslie offered methods of coping > such as "Acknowledging one's feelings –then take it all in."

Revitalization: David invited Ted Murray but no response. \*\* David to call him.

Discuss at this Sunday's Cong. Meeting with a potluck and a great deal of enthusiasm, in order to fire up the congregation. David, Margaret, Leslie met with Rev. Heather Ramsey-Macbrouk, the Director for the Center for Transformational Leadership) CTL) which is part of the SNEUCC. The term "Revitalization" will now be called "Transformation". David is recommending Level 3 as described as below and will need approval from the Trustees and Annie C. David has several ?s for Heather but does not expect to hear back from her until next week. Church Council has been apprised of this project already in prep for this coming Cong. Mtg.

Timeline:1) Nov. 10 > Cong. Indicates support for pursuing Level 3 once a team is put together.

2) Use Nov./Dec. to put together a team who will commit a considerable amt. of time and make this a church priority over all other duties.

3) Commission/charge the team at our Annual Cong. Meeting in Jan. – team completes Session 1 ASAP and proceed from there.

The following is the program:

The Center for Transformational Leadership's  
Navigating a Threshold Moment

Curriculum Overview:

Overall Goal: To equip local churches to make adaptive changes in order to be more transformative faith communities where members' lives are transformed, the churches are open to ongoing transformation and are ready to co-create transformation in the

surrounding community.

Target Audience: Churches who are in a Threshold Moment – they are on the upper right side of the Life Cycle Curve and have the capacity for making Adaptive Change. The leadership is ready and motivated to lead change.

Pre-requisite: CTL Intake Activity & Form or Attendance at online Lifecycle and Capacity Session led by CTL.

Anticipated Timeline: 5 sessions over 6 months plus follow up session 6 months later.

Central Leadership Group Size: 3 Minimum and 12 Maximum plus Pastor;\* The group or leaders within the group must have official authority to make decisions on behalf of the congregation.

Session Topics:

1. Session 1: Discover and Describe: Who is in the group, the church, the community?
2. Session 2: Listen & Wonder: What did community research uncover? What needs were shared? What points of connection could work? How will folks respond?
3. Session 3: Dream & What if's: What is possible? What needs to be created?
4. Session 4: Discern and Build Consensus: Review options, discern path & build consensus
5. Session 5: Design & Co-create: Make a plan & set up for success moving forward
6. Follow up Session: Lessons Learned and Next Steps – 6 months later

Program Options: 4 Tiers of Threshold Support Processes.

The tiers increase in cost and level of accompaniment. There may be side quests along the way. Levels 1-3 must be prepaid. Adapt is paid in increments timed with progress through the modules.

Level 1: DIY Threshold Journey

Cost: - no cost through the generous contributions of churches and individuals to proportional giving to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

Format: Pastor or team of other leaders lead conversations based on the curriculum information, assignments and handouts provided.

Support Provided: CTL Staff provides troubleshooting and support by email

Level 2: Threshold Retreat Model

Cost: \$50/church/retreat - \$250;

Format: Workshop model with multiple churches participating; The 6 sessions are offered Online or Regional Onsite. Assignments between sessions.

Support Provided: CTL Staff (or designated consultant) lead each session and allow for times for Q&A. Troubleshooting and additional support via email.

Level 3: Navigate Program

Cost: 1,300 prepaid for 6 sessions

Format: Navigator (a leader recruited and trained by CTL) leads each session.

Support Provided: Navigator leads session. Assignments between sessions.

Troubleshooting and support between sessions provided by CTL staff via call or email.

Level 4: A.D.A.P.T

Cost: \$6,000 for customizable process; Application Process Required. Acceptance into the program is not guaranteed.

Format: Fully Accompanied Journey; Modules and accompaniment by Shepherd, Shepherd leads some conversations with a Core Team and assigns work between sessions.

Support Provided: Shepherd & CTL Staff are available for Troubleshooting and Support between sessions.

**PASTORAL COVERAGE:** 12/29 – Bruce

1/26 -?Satch > \*\* Caroline will call to confirm

**DEACON COVERAGE:** See Minutes of 10/3

**DEACON ISSUES:** Advent: Front lawn display – agreed on lights encircling the pillars.

Sanctuary – Judy supplies tree, greens, plumes, sumac, winterberry, etc. for swags. Décor scheduled for Fri., 11/28@2PM into Sat. as needed.

Advertisement: Yes for postcards with Dec. activities. Article for TAN due 11/16 per Ann G.

No, for caroling. Congregants can sing with the other groups in Town.

Pageant: Waiting to hear from Robin Wilson to spearhead per Wendy. If declines, need to ask someone else to Spearhead > Jeannine, Ann Larson?

Coffee Hour Activities: Dec. 1, Make ornaments > decorate the tree

Dec. 8, Address Xmas cards for Chief Beth's shutins and our own Congregants. (need a list)

Dec. 15, Decorate cookies

Dec. 22, Share stories of Xmas from our past

Sunday School: Satch has offered to do SS once /month

**BUDGET:** Deferred due to time constraints. Margery is asking for \$900 for Music/Choir and guests. \*\* David to schedule Meg's evaluation ASAP. Richard Clarity is double checking candle supply but thinks we are OK.

**REMAINING AGENDA:** \*\* David will report in by email when he has some time. When to do Budget???

\*\* Indicates an action plan

**CLOSING PRAYER:** David

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:** Judy Haupt, Scribe

**NEXT MEETING:** 12/5/2024 @ 7PM per ZOOM for winter months? TBD