



INTRODUCTION

What follows is a detailed summary of the lunch-time presentation that followed our worship service this past Sunday, centered around the recommendations that grew out of our recent Leadership Retreat.

We began by highlighting some of our most significant accomplishments since the launch of our Ministry Plan in October 2016.

- Our **Spiritual Nurture Team** has totally revitalized our children's ministry and established a new community-wide tradition of hosting Trunk or Treat in the Chapel parking lot.
- Our **Liturgical Arts Team** has greatly enhanced and enriched the quality of our worship services, adding new musical, visual and dramatic elements, and more intentionally bringing children into the leadership of our services.
- Our **Communications Team** has launched a new church website, established a social media presence, and acquired and installed new church management and communication software, including an email utility that allows us to send a message to everyone on our email distribution list with a touch of a button.
- Our **Congregation Life Team** continues to minister to the members of our congregation in times of need, to oversee dearly loved fellowship events (like Wassail) and has also originated new fellowship events, like the Mad Hatters Tea at Highland Farms.
- Our **Church/College Relations Team** has established a new community-wide tradition centered around inviting college faculty, staff and students -- and others too, including our own members -- to join us for a Thanksgiving Day meal in the fellowship hall.
- Our **Spiritual Nurture team** has
- Our **Administration Ministry Team** has focused on developing a sustainable operating fund budget supported entirely with annual donations from congregants.
- Finally, our **Music Director Search Team** has brought us Joel P. Rogers, our new Director of Music!



NEW INITIATIVES

As we look ahead the rest of 2019 and beyond, what's next for us on our road to a bright hopeful future?

At the leadership retreat the team focused in on three different priority areas:

1. Enriching our fellowship.
2. Making our facilities and our own practices more welcoming and hospitable, especially for guests visitors.
3. Improving our communications, both internally and, again, especially with guests and visitors.

In service of these three larger goals, the leadership team is proposing the following specific action steps:

- Plan an inter-generational retreat for this summer, to be held at Camp Greer, intended for all members of our church family. **Save this date: August 24. And please consider contacting Sandy Brauer and volunteering to be part of the planning team!**
- Continue to build out our social media presence, including the launch of a church Instagram account and, possibly, a live Facebook feed of our worship service. (The latter will necessitate further due diligence to assess, evaluate and consider any possible security concerns.)
- Before worship, Sally Broughton also shared with us her vision for re-starting the Caring Groups program, which many of you will remember, and she extended an invitation to the congregation to sign up to be a part of what promises to be a rich and nourishing -- and ongoing -- fellowship program. **Please contact Sally to sign up or to help plan this program!**



GROWTH INITIATIVES

The team is also recommending that we undertake three initiatives that we believe will help serve to bring new members into our church family and add to our congregational vitality. We might think of these as Growth Initiatives.

- I. Launch a program to train greeters and ushers on how to connect more personally with visitors and to insure that we subsequently contact them to welcome them to our worship or programs. At a minimum, we will provide them with information about our church and give them an opportunity to provide us with contact information -- before they enter the sanctuary for worship. When we receive contact information, we will use it to connect with them by mail, email, or phone. If you would like to be part of this effort, let Steve or any member of the session know so we can add you to the team as it is developed
- II. Authorize a team to immediately begin repurposing our narthex and parlor to better tell the story of who our congregation is now.

The artwork that currently adorns the walls of the Narthex and Parlor is historically significant. Much of it was done, and donated, by alumni of the college. It is, therefore, valuable not only historically but sentimentally and aesthetically, as well.

It terms of its function, however, these pieces serve primarily (and also passively) to tell the story of who our congregation was forty -- or more -- years ago, when the church and the college were one institution. The team is therefore proposing that we replace the current art in the narthex and parlor with a series of displays that more effectively tell the story of who we are now as a congregation, at this moment in our history.



A specific recommendation for how to best use these spaces to tell our story has not yet been made, but these “narrative displays” might include:

- photos of our children learning together, playing together, and leading worship
- photos of our fellowship events, such as potlucks and pancake suppers, and the Mad Hatter Tea
- photos of our community engagement activities and social outreach programs, such as crews from the church working on Habitat houses, or at SVCN, or the Veterans Shelter (to name just a few of the many possibilities we might wish to highlight)
- photos of our ministry and outreach to the campus, such as the new student and Homecoming potlucks, the Thanksgiving service, Harvest Display and the Thanksgiving meal we now offer, and Cookies and Carols
- stories from our members about what our church means to them
- photos of our Session and the leaders and conveners or our Ministry Teams

Robyn Castellani and Kristin Williams have volunteered to coordinate this effort. If you have questions, concerns or ideas you wish to share, please contact them directly.



- III. Our third proposed Growth Initiative is to take steps to make our sanctuary warmer, more inviting and more colorful, and to convey a stronger sense of community during worship.

Our sanctuary was built when Chapel attendance was mandatory. How can we now make the sanctuary feel less empty, and the worship experience warmer and more welcoming, in a space that was built to hold a community six times the size of our current congregation?

To that end, the team is recommending that we place ribbons -- long strips of flowing fabric -- over the back rows of pews to encourage people to sit farther forward. These ribbons would be in the liturgical color of a given season, which would offer the additional benefit of bringing more color, warmth and texture to our sanctuary.

Again, if you have questions, concerns or additional ideas about how we might make our sanctuary warmer and more inviting, please contact any member of the Worship Planning Team: Fran Roberts, Corise Gambrell or John Laney.



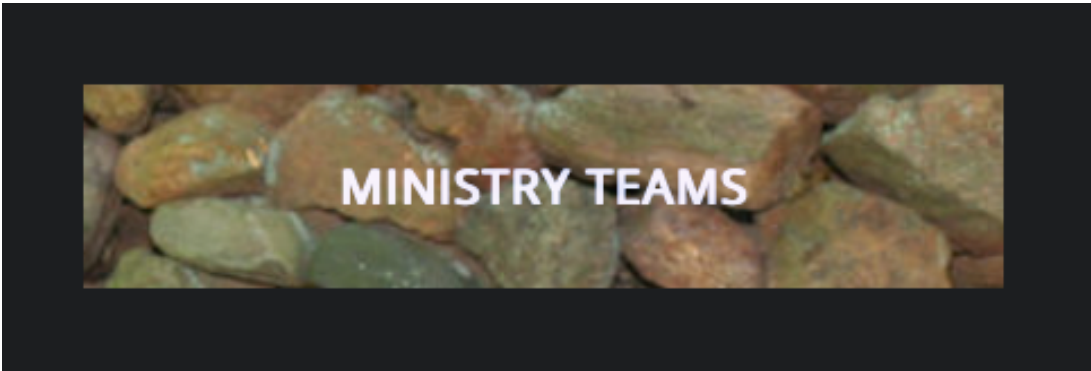
FEEDBACK

After presenting this full slate of ideas and proposals, we opened the floor to general discussion. A fruitful and healthy conversation followed. Our members expressed a range of opinions on the proposed initiatives, ranging from heartfelt concern about the effect these changes might have on our members and our sanctuary, to enthusiastic support for moving forward with them.

Most of our Session members and most of our Ministry Team leaders and conveners were present on Sunday, so they heard first-hand the feedback that came from our members. Session will take this feedback into consideration as we consider our next steps.

If you were present on Sunday and opted not to speak up in a group context, or if you were not able to be present, or if you've had further ideas since we met, we encourage you to contact any member of Session, or of the relevant Ministry Team or Teams. (See roster below.)

And you are of course always welcome to talk with members of the church staff.



MINISTRY TEAMS

At the conclusion of our time together, we heard briefly from the leaders of our Ministry Teams, inviting church members to become more involved in the ongoing ministries of the church, either as a regular member of a Ministry Team (the teams that meet regularly and coordinate our ongoing ministries, such as Congregational Life) or as a member of an Action Team (the teams that help plan and deliver specific, one-time events, such as Trunk or Treat, or the Thanksgiving meal, or our annual stewardship campaign).

Administration Ministry Team

Mike Levi, convener
Ken Murchison, Session liaison
Jack Ballard
Sally Broughton
Bob Gambrel
Leslie and Adeeb Sayyer
Ray Stock
Kay Stockdale
Steve Runholt, staff liaison

Church/College Relations

Kay Stockdale, convening elder
Brian Ammons, Chaplain, WWC
Diana Sanderson
Tacci Smith
Steve Runholt, staff liaison

Communications

Nancy Garrison, convening elder
John Bishop
Robyn Castellani
Donna Eagle-Joslin
Tess Newman
Brent Roberts
Steve Runholt, staff liaison

Community Engagement

CC Cole, convening elder
Jamie Dale
Bob Gambrell
Larry Griswold
Susan Laney
Salyna Morgan
Leslie and Adeeb Sayyer
Mary Wheeler
Steve Runholt, staff liaison

Congregational Life

Eloise Murchison and Sarah Anne Eller, co-conveners
Susan Daughtery, Session liaison
Vicki Collins
Corise Gambrell
Susan Laney
Pat Levi
Kathë Mosher
Grace Boyer, staff liaison

Facilities Use Team

Bob Gambrell, convening elder

Liturgical Arts Team

Steve Runholt, convener, staff liaison to Session
Grace Boyer
Robyn Castellani
Anne and Jamie Dale
Donna Eagle-Joslin
Joel Rogers
Kristin Williams

Spiritual Nurture

Kristin Williams, convener
Sandy Brauer, Session liaison
Natalie Cowal
Susan Laney
Lisa Mallory
Kay Stockdale
Grace Boyer, staff liaison

Worship Planning

Fran Roberts, convening elder
Grace Boyer
Donna Eagle-Joslin
Corise Gambrell
John Laney
Joel Rogers
Steve Runholt, staff liaison



CONCLUSION

When we launched our Ministry Plan in October of 2016, we set out on a shared journey that we believed would lead us to a bright, hopeful future.

In documenting some of our more notable achievements that followed, we hoped to show that, together, we have, in fact, made significant progress toward achieving the goals we set for ourselves.

We now believe that the new initiatives outlined above will take us still further down the road to a sustainable and vibrant future, and implementing these changes will help us achieve our ultimate goals of doing what God has called us to do, and becoming the church God has called us to be.

But, as always, our ability to realize our goals depends on each one of us sharing in them and supporting them.

So we ask you to prayerfully consider where God might be calling you to invest your gifts, talents and energies.

With gratitude and thanks, on behalf of the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church Session and our leadership retreat planning team (Grace Boyer, Sally Broughton, Nancy Garrison, Mike Levi and Ken Murchison).

Steve Runholt