

Core Team Minutes

October 24, 2022

Present: Chad, Lynnette, Deanna, Tanya

Opened in prayer

Respectful Conversations:

Feedback: The experience was interesting because we found out there were some very specific questions (e.g. "If we become reconciling, will we still be Methodist?") that we had not realized were out there. Since the event, Chad has had a few conversations in person and electronically that have been helpful. It was nice to see people we hadn't seen at church for a while, and to be able to connect with them at least for the discussion. It was also good to see how many spoke who don't always voice an opinion out loud. We had 53 people participating, which was a great turnout.

Q: *Did we accomplish the stated purpose of deepening understanding of each other's points of view?* A: The listening was good, the rules were a little restrictive, we had to break them in order to answer pointed questions. There are two ways to look at understanding, a deeper understanding of the subject matter, and a deeper understanding of how our neighbor is experiencing the issue and subject matter. That understanding of our neighbor was accomplished. Our prior events were about expanding understanding of the subject matter. One question coming out of the last six months as a whole, is why did people NOT participate in some of those previous knowledge-building activities, and another is how can we use what we learned from the process in the future for Respectful Conversations on other topics?

Q: *If we become a RM congregation, what do we expect of our congregants?* A: There will be a spectrum of responses and degree of participation and commitment to the philosophy of inclusiveness, just as there is with many articles of faith (e.g. Apostles's Creed). What can we be willing to live with within our community or system, knowing what we proclaim as a community, holding onto the most important things in our faith as followers of Christ. Allow people to see that there are no requirements for people to advocate for or participate in any part of what will be in the future, just as there are not now.

Q: *Is there a financial requirement to support Reconciling Ministry?* A: There is no such requirement. If such a financial gift were made to support the work of the Reconciling Ministry Network or related endeavors, it would be voluntary, such as our gift to the Gideons or mission of the month.

Q: Another question asked during the Respectful Conversations event, not directly related to the main theme was about how the Core Team makes decisions. A: Some decisions about day-to-day operations are made by the Core Team, and other decisions which involve large financial commitments, or change the direction or statement of purpose or vision of the church are brought before the congregation. Deanna will work on a statement of how that works. Our Core Team members are elected by the church at the yearly charge conference, and can be nominated by persons in the congregation, or people can step forward to volunteer serve on Core Team.

Finance: (Deanna) they are still working on the Employee Retention Credit for 2022 (reports from Speiker going to a colleague of Kelly for review, which hopefully will be done within a month), SPRC is applying for an Investing in Congregations Grant from the Minnesota Annual Conference of up to \$20,000 for 2023, for the purpose of expanding ministry in new areas (e.g. digital/online ministry.) Will still be in black for 2023 if ERC comes through and all pledges currently made are fulfilled.

Deanna will bring a report on designated and undesignated memorials to our next meeting to determine if any of it can be appropriately used for current expenses.

Straw Poll Nov 1-6th

Next meeting: Monday, December 5, 2022 at 6:30 pm