

HTUMC Core Team Meeting
October 23, 2023

Present: Tanya Alemu (chair), Patrick Rasmussen, Paula Green, Carol Ottoson, Collan Zehnder, Lynnette Dobberpuhl, Pastor Chad Gilbertson, Rene Meyer (congregation), Kay Petterson (congregation)

Opened with prayer

Signage: (using the Holy Conferencing process) Carol read and moved to approve the proposed action, "The I team proposes...one on ramp and one on back" Patrick Rasmussen seconded. Four emails were received to add to the discussion one approving, three saying the sign seemed oversized and should be placed on the brick in a smaller size like the old sign, one saying they say the stance has been presented too politically, and that people are not being allowed to have opposing stances and feel welcome, that other marginalized and alienated groups are not being represented enough, overly emphasizing gay pride. One feels we should tone down our rainbow messaging.

Collan, feels that the new sign is not a big departure from the current sign, that it does include race and reconciling congregation.

Carol, has heard pushback on the design, that the RMN logo is unnecessary and the new logo is too (get from Carol's statement)

Paula, supportive of the signs, may be worth revisiting the size since that has been brought up by a number of people

Kay passed

Rene as part of 92% that voted to support, no concerns about size of signs as long as they are clear and visible. Surprised by the pushback, we need to show our commitment to our identity.

Patrick, the size would be easy to fix, and surprised

Lynnette, support the sign, fine e

Tanya, want to make sure our members and friends don't feel pushed aside. But do want to acknowledge and celebrate who we are, and our stand for inclusion. Suggests placing two signs, one with the new logo and one with the RMN logo separately to be less overwhelming.

Proposals for additional changes discussed

There would be four sign faces that would need to be changed to add the logo to our current signs in addition to the proposed new signs. These would be metal signs four feet wide (using this vendor).

Amendment remove logo, center 4' x 4' reconciling ministries congregation see page 2 moved by Tanya, second by Paula, passed unanimously

Carol proposed that the logo only be made into a smaller sign to replace the smaller sign mounted on the brick front of the church, Tanya seconded, passed unanimously

Chad thanked the group for a respectful conversation, speaking to the issue. It is good to keep listening for concerns from our community and ask for people to share what concerns them, working to be a

loving community to those who continue to struggle. It might be helpful to say, "I hear what you are saying and I want to understand what experiences brought you to your concerns, I also would like to share how I came to my understanding." We are all the congregation, not us/them. Taking time for each other is important. Listening is important. We reduced size and removed one of the images in rainbow colors in response to the concerns brought forward, but retained the rmn logo because the group that is represented by the rainbow flags is the only group that was called out as "incompatible with Christian teaching."

Finance: See Patrick's report (new finance reports came in just today)

Three insurance quotes being compared. We are currently with Guide 1 which has doubled. Church Mutual and Great American are two options with local agents, that can beat our current bid and give better coverage for hail damage on roofs. We are currently insured for \$2.4M for both buildings.

Venmo: required new email for church and new PayPal account, which was supposed to make Venmo happen, and it hasn't happened, with no way to connect with help.

We were approached by a development company that was interested in buying the church property. Two proposals were given, one for buying the parsonage and open lots, and one for buying everything. The proposals were not sufficient for what would be needed to relocate, or sufficient value for the loss of valuable land. The developers were told that this is not the right time but they can check back in a year.

We will revisit ideas for better using parsonage, space to a non-profit, space to be used as a group home, or renovated and rented as a home.

New opportunities: Fall Festival (final meeting Wednesday), Buy Nothing Swap and Shop (bring in gently used holiday items, allow others to shop for free November 11) Candy Crawl, Native American Month Nov 18 guided tour for 20 for \$7, GetTOGETHER, Tshirt sales. Kids Church

Fresh Expressions Patrick, Carol, Tina and Chad attended workshop for being church led by laity, outside the church, for people who do not usually connect with church. The group plus two others will be meeting to talk to about dog park church, yoga church, Mexican restaurant church and other ways. Telling a Jesus story and discussing it. Not for growing a congregation (although it might) but for sharing the gospel with people who don't know it.

New business, hoping for an update from SPRT and Trustees for a budget for 2023 by next month.

Last Saturday a few members (one was Rene) were at a conference in Waconia about church safety and security (including emergency health issue, avoiding break-ins, active shooter, etc.) Looking into having that here.

Think and pray about persons to invite into leadership in the new year (Core, SPRT, Trustees) Pass names on to Chad.

Next meeting Monday, Nov 20 at 6:30pm