St. John Transition Task Force
Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2019

Persons present were Task Force Members, Carlene Gardner, Larry Prohaska, Melanie Wirtz, Adam Puls, Sandra Stavnes, Marty Postel, and Samantha Tetmeyer. Denise Hanson (Facilitator), Robin Abraham (Recording Secretary), Jim Langel (Council President and Ex-Officio Member), and Pastor Paul Svingen (Interim Pastor and Ex-Officio Member) were also present. Special guests were Loren Gardner and Tali Svingen. Absent were task force members Scott Leisinger, Carolyn Martin, P.J. Mills, and Kelly Turner.

Welcome and Devotion
Denise welcomed everyone and shared a devotion from Psalm 37:7 *Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices.* The team shared our feelings about “fret not yourself” and not worrying about things we can’t control. “Be still” – this interim period is a wilderness period for us.

Approval of Agenda – approved

Previous Meeting Minutes – approved

New Business
*Daniel O’Brien Youth Ministry Internship Report*
The team reviewed highlights of Dan’s report on his two years of working with our youth. He provided observations about our programs, challenges he encountered, and suggestions for our youth program going forward.

*Ideas for Showcase St. John*
Our volunteer event on May 19 will be called *Showcase St. John.* It will be held in the FLC after each service, and coffee and treats will be served. Carlene and Loren Gardner will make an announcement at all three services on May 5 regarding the upcoming showcase. Loren shared a number of ideas on how to ensure the success of the event. This led into brainstorming how to best communicate the purpose of the eight resource teams. We considered a variety of ways to configure the showcase and how to efficiently funnel the congregation through the teams’ displays. Some suggestions that were considered related to May 19:

- Cut down on the worship services to allow more time for the congregation to spend exploring the ministries.
- Connect the mission of each team to a part of the service.
- Present the team descriptions in such a way that they are the sermon.
- Pastor Paul could move around the room during the service, pausing at each table to publicize that team’s purpose.
- Team members can dress in colors coordinating with their team’s color on our org chart.
- Each team should create a trifold display board for their table, along with corresponding handouts.
- Props can be incorporated as they correspond to each team.
- Team members should develop a 90 second “elevator” speech describing their team.
- Encourage the congregation to visit each team’s table by awarding some kind of prize for those who talk to all the teams.
- Each team should be familiar with the other teams’ responsibilities in order to properly guide members toward which team best aligns with their interests and talents.
The TTF realized more thought was needed on this particular topic, and decided to finish up the regular business of our meeting and call a special meeting on May 8 to finalize details of the Showcase. Task force members should bring their scripts for Showcase St. John on May 8.

Each team will have a liaison from the council. The council is meeting on Thursday morning to decide who on the council will be the liaison for each of the teams. Pastor Paul suggested each team have an “at large” member.

Adam handed out three versions of the org chart that Tiffany Tott created. A design was chosen and will be used to create a banner, as well as the bulletin cover on May 19. Many ideas were presented pertaining to the graphic and ways it could be displayed. Pastor Paul has an old barn door that we could potentially use as a background for the cross. Could a large image be created out of metal? Should we turn it into a decal or magnet for the members to display?

**Draft of Task Force Final Report**
Denise distributed a very rough draft of the final report. The introduction section of the report needs more information on who we are as a congregation, and how we came to be in our present situation. The report will include a summary of recommendations that were made to council as a result of our work, as well as the ranking of the congregational survey results. Denise asked us to review the draft and check if anything else should be included. She would like each team to lead off their report with a Bible verse. Task force members will provide feedback to Denise by May 7 in order for it to be finalized and presented to the Council at their meeting on May 16.

**Ministry Site Profile**
The MSP must be congruent with the Task Force’s final report. The most important part of the MSP is the “Summary Description” on the bottom of Page 5. This 75 word description of our congregation will be featured prominently on the ELCA’s “Current Openings” web page for potential applicants’ review. Members of the task force are encouraged to draft a version of the description to share with the rest of the team for input prior to our next meeting.

There will be a brief farewell for Mia at the end of the 8 AM service on Sunday. Tommy’s last Sunday is May 12, Jon’s is June 16, and Tricia’s will be after Bible School is completed. The openings created by these departures will be posted following Council’s approval at their meeting on Thursday, May 2.

**Future Events & Dates**

Task force meetings:
- May 8 (Wednesday) @ 6:30 – special meeting regarding Showcase St. John
- May 15 (Wednesday) @ 6:30 PM

May 5 – Gardners make announcement at all three services regarding the Showcase and council installation
May 16 – Task Force final report will be presented to Council
May 19 – Showcase St. John; Recognition of graduates
June 23 – Decommissioning of Transition Task Force

**Adjournment**
Meeting ended with Pastor Paul leading us in the Lord’s Prayer.