

To help facilitate our conversation I have summarized several thoughts and compiled informational updates for you to review at your leisure.

The first two items I will explore at our meeting. The other items, I do not intend to discuss, but am happy to answer questions or provide clarification.

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I. Newcomers conversation and member reception

According to the current bylaws, the deacons and outreach share responsibility for creating events and activities to attract newcomers. And the Deacons "examine" candidates for membership.

What is/what has been the role of the deacons regarding welcoming and grounding newcomers and "examining" candidates for membership?

These are areas to explore as part of the restructuring and bylaw update. Nevertheless, in the here and now, there is interest from some recent attendees to explore membership – and from at least one of our regular virtual attendees to become a member as well.

In other congregations, offering a periodic newcomer and visitor reception was an effective way to get to one another. I have found emphasizing conversation, answering questions, and providing a brief overview of our history, vision, values and structure to be appreciated and effective. All of this aided by a handout for people to review at their leisure.

What do we have?

II. Idea: Monthly "Happy Celebrations" during coffee hour

We need to celebrate the joys and occasions happening in one another's lives, e.g., birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, and other milestones.

I suggest one Sunday a month we have a cake during coffee hour and make time/space for people to share what they are celebrating. We can have the list of birthdays handy and add in these names if they are not present.

Pastor's Report to Deacons September 2022

As first Sunday is communion, I suggest we make this a second or third Sunday activity. Cakes might be home baked or store bought.

III. **Reminder: 2023 Ministry Planning and Budgeting**

As discussed in council last month, we will be using a mission/ministry driven approach to develop plans and the budget. This both anticipates the reorganization and helps us develop a proactive approach to intentionally evolve our ministry.

Although restructuring and our vision initiative is still being developed, these areas support the further our current mission statement:

We believe God calls us to: WORSHIP and PROCLAIM God's living presence, GROW in our awareness of God's love, CELEBRATE the fellowship of a loving, supportive community of friends, and CHALLENGE the Church and its members to use their gifts in service with the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the guide. (Mission Statement circa 1987.)

Therefore, we will create plans and budgets for each of the major areas of ministry, e.g., worship, life-long learning, community and care, faith-in-action/service with others. (these categories are for 2023 and will likely evolve as our vision and mission becomes more focused)

See separate document and instructions.

IV. **FYI: Upcoming Activities**

September 24, 10am memorial on the grounds of Marianapolis for Chris Seger, the son of Susan Blanchette

September 25, 10am Baptism Andrew and Joseph Hirt

October 1, 1pm Bond/Boies Wedding

October 2, Crop Walk

October 8, 10am Animal Blessing

October 9, Launch Stewardship Campaign and Values Conversation following worship

October 16 Date to decide if we will hold a Christmas Pageant and if so when (Heather, Families, Pastor)

October 18, November/December Newsletter articles due

October 23, 10am Baptism (meeting Caroline and husband after worship on 18th)

October 23, 3pm Installation/Celebration of all who make ministry happen

October 24 – Oct 30, *REV KEV on Vacation*

October 30, 10am All Saints, Rev. Debbie preaching

November 6, Pledges Blessed

December 24, Christmas Eve (Saturday) 7:30pm

December 25, Christmas Day is a Sunday this year (Deacons discussed a prerecorded message and opening the sanctuary for a hymn sing and reflection if congregants are inclined)