

## Pastor’s Report to Council October 2022

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

As we move toward restructuring, I encourage all to review the change cycle shared earlier this year. I also encourage us to member the following helpful bits of wisdom:

- Intent vs. Impact: often the best intentions can result in unintentional negative impacts on others, that we may not even realize. It is helpful to remember that we can never know and should not assume what someone’s intention is or may be. Instead, approach challenging situations with a belief that all act with the best of intentions, even when we may have been negatively impacted.  
When confused, frustrated, disappointed, or hurt speak to the impact using I language, when this happened/was said, I feel ... seek fist to understand by asking open, honest questions, I wonder...
- Separate process from content: Sometimes we may agree with a result, but the process may have been less than ideal. Separating the process and content, allows us to celebrate the good and also work together to improve our communications and processes going forward.

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#### I. Children and Family Ministry Coordinator

An interview team has formed that includes Christian Hirt, Aimee Ahearn, Deby Kirk, Paula Wilmot, Jim Nowak, Rick Singh, and me.

We are using the same job description and interview process.

The job is posted on our web site and Indeed. We have had 10 applicants to date and will conduct our first interviews with three candidates this week.

Heather and her family continue to experience health challenges. We will conduct an exit interview with Heather when she feels up to it.

#### II. 2023 Ministry Planning

In August, I shared with council an approach to develop integrated plans for our ministry areas in the coming year. The intent was for existing committees, boards, etc. to develop their plans for 2023 and organize their activities into one of 5 areas: Worship, Learning, Care, Service, and other.

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We then intended to gather the plans and facilitate conversations across the committees, boards, etc. The result would be a plan for how we grow and improve our ministries to guide our activities in the coming year and inform the budget. Worksheets and questions were created, a schedule developed, and the existing leaders, committees, boards, etc. were asked to develop plans. And I made myself available to help facilitate the planning process and answer questions.

Some committees and boards have not yet begun the planning process for 2023; and will not do so until early December.

This makes it unrealistic to proceed as planned.  
The 2023 budget will need to be developed using the historic process.  
And collaborative conversations to develop a plan by ministry area will be postponed into the new year.

### III. Communications and other reminders

The email for Lisa has not changed and is [office@FirstChurchWoodstock.org](mailto:office@FirstChurchWoodstock.org)

Content for the weekly emails and bulletin announcements are due by 10:30 Monday morning to help Lisa efficiently use her time and prevent mid-week rework/scrambling.

Please do not include personal email addresses in items for our weekly emails and bi-monthly Share. We have found that bots scrape these emails and members of our congregation have received scam emails and texts purportedly from the pastor soliciting gift cards and the like. We can create @firstChurchwoodstock.org email addresses, email alias, and email groups.

### IV. Migration to Google Workspace

Google Workspace is operational and accessible.

#### **Google Meet**

Unlike Zoom, anyone with an account / email @firstchurchwoodstock.org can set up a Google Meet video conference.

To set up a Google Meet call you can use the google meet App or within Google Calendar select "Add Google Meet Video Conferencing."

People who you add to the "invitee list" will be able to join at any time. Others who use the link will need to be let into the call when the sign on.

It is why everyone on the council invite list received a recent calendar invitation.

#### **Emails Accounts**

We can set up over 1,000 email accounts if needed.

It is desirable that we establish accounts for officers and various teams to make it easier for congregants to communicate and to capture our history.

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In addition, when implementing Google Workspace our plan - to which the Trustees agreed and Council was repeatedly briefed - was to migrate unofficial FCCW related emails, i.e., those that do not use the @firstchurchwoodstock.org, to emails within our domain.

Can we establish a timeline to migrate the existing emails? What do you need to make this happen?

### **Groups**

### **# of members**

Groups are like a distribution list and a discussion board, which may or may not be moderated. They can be used for communicating with teams and groups of people and make it easier to maintain a single master list for a group mailing list, e.g., council.

In addition, a group such as "prayers" can be used in place of our weekly prayer list MailChimp email. And Can be made available/visible for ,

Current groups include the following:

<a href="mailto:childrenfamilyministry@firstchurchwoodstock.org">childrenfamilyministry@firstchurchwoodstock.org</a>	14
<a href="mailto:creativeworship@firstchurchwoodstock.org">creativeworship@firstchurchwoodstock.org</a>	1
<a href="mailto:deaconboard@firstchurchwoodstock.org">deaconboard@firstchurchwoodstock.org</a>	2
<a href="mailto:prayers@firstchurchwoodstock.org">prayers@firstchurchwoodstock.org</a>	3
<a href="mailto:sunday-school-volunteers@firstchurchwoodstock.org">sunday-school-volunteers@firstchurchwoodstock.org</a>	7

### **Shared Drives**

***Have been created in and or migrated to Google Workspace, for the following:***

2023 Ministry Planning  
CFM Coordinator Search  
Children and Family Ministry  
Communications  
Stewardship  
Technology  
Worship Planning

If you would like access to any of these drives, please contact me, Rick Singh, or Bruce Staehle.

To migrate or create other shared online drives, I am happy to walk you through the process.