

Pastor's Report to Council January 2023

I. Congregational Meeting

The Call

Laura has published the Call in the January Share. It will appear in the next three Friday weekly emails and Sunday worship bulletins.

The call is also posted on the Annual Meeting page of our Website.

<http://firstchurchwoodstock.org/about-us/annual-meeting-2023-01-29/>

Meeting Materials

A folder called "2023 Annual Meeting" has been created on the Council Google Drive – <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bwVuKfl4dfFLL7SpmKgAv8cwjaQxM5tU?usp=sharing>

All meeting materials should be posted to this folder. These materials will be posted to the website prior to the meeting and a limited number of copies printed copies. Printed materials will be available on request Sunday following worship and in the office.

Materials will be posted to the web site as they come available.

We will send out a special email to our MailChimp email list when the Annual Report is available, and again when the Restructuring and bylaw materials are complete.

The Annual Report

The Annual Report is being drafted as various teams drop their reports into the document. (Thank you to all teams that have already done so!)

If you need assistance adding content to the document, you can send your content to **Lisa by 10am tomorrow, Wednesday Jan 11 - or to me after that deadline.** We would like to have copies available Sunday Jan 15, if possible.

Sections have been added to the report for content from various boards, committees, groups and teams. New sections can be added by simply adding the content in. We will clean up the report once content is in, i.e., updating the Table of Contents, adding in page breaks, ensuring all content is in the same font.

It will be helpful if Council could confirm who is compiling the remaining materials and when they will be ready.

The Meeting Agenda

Page 2 of the draft Annual Report includes a DRAFT agenda. Who will finalize the Agenda and When?

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The Meeting

The Meeting is scheduled as an in-person meeting for January 29 following worship.

Worship will be shortened:

- **No spoken announcements Jan 29 before worship** – please add them to the bulletin or hold them until after the annual meeting.
- Only an opening and closing song.
- Short scripture readings.
- The morning reflection will be in the form of a letter to the church.

Questions for Council:

- **Should we create Google Meet for people to attend the meeting virtually who are unable to attend in person?**
- **Will we allow people participating in Google Meet to vote?**

II. Moving to Ministry Teams

The following is a DRAFT approach for how we move to Ministry Areas/Teams.

In addition to forming a new Governing Board, the proposed structure calls for organizing our ministry related activity into four areas, i.e., Worship, Faith Formation/Lifelong Learning, Community Care, and Faith in Action/Serving others.

We will move to the Ministry Team model over the course of the coming year. Beginning where we are with existing ministry boards, committees, groups and teams we will clarify and evolve our Ministry structure through collaborative conversations to clarify the following:

- interests and passions of congregants.
- the purpose and priorities of teams, sub-teams, groups, ministry areas, and the diaconate.
- and related roles, responsibilities, expectations, etc.

Key principles include:

- Celebrating that we are all gifted by God in some way and called to use these gifts in service to strengthen God's body and heal God's world.
- Providing appropriate structure to foster collaboration, learning, and community.
- Aligning activities related to a ministry area with the ministry.
- Inviting, encouraging, and inspiring people to use their gifts in ways that are meaningful for them, e.g., to grow spiritually, connect in community, explore their gifts, and serve others.
- Simplifying and clarifying decision processes to foster trust and adaptability.

How will we get there?

1. Identify Ministry Team Coordinators for each ministry area (see description below)
2. Continue and or begin facilitating monthly meetings for the four Ministry Areas and the Deacons.

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- a) Creative Worship continues. The agenda for the monthly meeting is expanded to include other worship teams/topics, or a separate meeting is held to focus on Worship more broadly.
 - b) Deacons continue to meet monthly. The agenda shifts to include: i) helping to foster/form the new ministry teams; ii) initially facilitating the monthly Community Care ministry meeting; iii) and (later in the year) role of the diaconate in the new ministry model.
 - c) Outreach becomes Faith-In-Action Ministry Team and includes support for the New Community ministry initiative
 - d) Faith Formation. Initial efforts for this ministry area will include a one-time, rather than monthly meeting of existing (and potential) adult group leaders, Sunday School volunteers and families to coordinate activities and develop a plan for Children and Family Ministry with support from others.
3. Pastor facilitates an initial meeting across Ministry Team Coordinators and Senior Deacons to review consolidated input from Ministry Planning Process and agree to how we evolve the ministry
 4. Feb 19 Transfiguration Sunday: Hold an interactive ministry fair to encourage congregants to explore Spiritual locations, gifts and practices in relation to the many ways people can connect, grow, learn, serve and/or participate in one of the Committees, Teams, Groups, etc.
 5. Ministry Areas and Teams invite congregants to explore, serve and participate in retreats, ministry activities, meetings, etc. throughout the year.
 6. Monthly Ministry Area meetings and Pastor-facilitated Ministry Coordinator meetings become the primary place where we explore, dream, wonder, plan, evolve and evaluate ministry
 7. We make the way be walking and evolve the ministry based on interests, passions, and needs. This means we give permission to stop or suspend activities that the congregation is no longer passionate about, and to form new ministries based on the interests and passions of congregants,.

Ministry Team Coordinator

In addition to recruiting candidates for the Governing Board, it will be helpful to identify who in the congregation have interest in the four Ministry Areas and who is interested in (or curious about) the Ministry Team Coordinator roles for Faith in Action, Community/Care, and Faith Formation/Life Long Learning.

To that end here is an initial draft of the role of Ministry Team Coordinator:

A Ministry Team Coordinator serves as coordinator and point-person for the Ministry Team, Sub-Teams, and activities related to a specific Ministry Area, e.g., Worship, Faith formation, Community Care, and Faith in Action.

The Team Coordinator helps identify resources (physical, logistical, and personnel) needed for the ministry, coordinates the various activities and initiatives, identifies challenges, and ensures the ministry is carried out with a sense of community, connection, care, and joy.

Responsibilities:

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The Ministry Team Coordinator is not expected to personally perform all the tasks in the ministry area, but rather is the point-person facilitating and coordinating this work, engaging other congregants in this ministry using whatever constellation of teams and individual volunteer roles proves appropriate and effective (and, of course, participating directly in tasks as desired).

Relationships & Expectations

The Ministry Team Coordinator works closely with and reports to the Pastor. The Ministry Team Coordinator is appointed by the Governing Board upon the recommendation of the Pastor. Ministry Team Coordinators serve in the role for one year, and may be reappointed.

The Ministry Team Coordinators work in concert with the Pastor and one another to think strategically about ministry, coordinate efforts and activities across ministry areas, and help the congregation further God's vision and our mission through worship, learning, care, connection, and service

Key Characteristics:

- Passion for the Ministry Area
- Collaborative Spirit
- Organization
- Meeting Facilitation

III. Upcoming Activities and Dates

Jan 15 Receiving New Members

Karen and Peter Graves by letter of Transfer
Russ and Dot Downer, Bruce Mikolajczak,
Kim Mitchell (in absentia) and Ruth Trahan
Restructuring and Bylaws briefing in Library

Jan 22 20th anniversary of ONA, guest preacher Michael Streib; following worship
Michael will host a facilitated conversation about ONA 2.0

Jan 17 7PM Conversation regarding New Community Ministry related to Seniors, etc.

Jan 29 Proposed date for ACM

Feb 19 Transfiguration Sunday, proposed date for an interactive service to explore
Spiritual Gifts and Locations in relationship to the many ways to connect, grow,
wonder and serve in our congregation

Feb 22 7 PM Ash Wednesday, we will join EWCC and CoGS at East Woodstock

April 21/22 SNEUCC Lay Delegate Training at FCCW. May need hosts for some lay
delegates traveling for training. And may need other volunteers to assist with
logistics, etc.