

Ministry Update Report November 2023

The following is an update regarding items within the Ministry Areas and Communications.

This is primarily informational in nature.

A. Upcoming Activities and Dates

Nov 19	10a	Adam Smedberg, Community Engagement Specialist from Church World Services, in worship and 2 nd hour conversation
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B. Webinars and Training

Nov 18	2 – 5p	Keeping Our Sacred Spaces Open & Safe Shrewsbury (I am attending)
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C. Self-Care

I have one more week of vacation outstanding. I will look for time to take that before the end of the year.

D. Ministry Update

The ministry planning process has been disappointing.

Individuals, leaders, and ministry teams were asked to provide their ideas by mid-October regarding what is working, what we can do better, and what we might try that we are not currently doing.

Expressly sharing that “We want to create a way to continually gather ideas and explore the possibilities together.”

Although a few leaders honored the intent of the process, in several places, ideas are broad-based generalizations, opinions rather than ideas, and personal preferences. Many comments also exhibit negative behaviors/competing priorities the congregation named as habitually tripping us up and holding us back.

Where appropriate I am referring comments and ideas to other areas, such as the Governing Board.

I will seek meetings with several individuals to clarify the intent of the process, listen to concerns, and seek clarity.

In addition, during November I will meet with the respective teams and staff to review ideas and agree to 2024 priorities.