

Saturday Morning – Living the Homestretch
 Saturday, 9/21/19 10:00-11:30
 Agenda and Responses (there were ~50 people in attendance)

Pleasure to be here – thank you for the invitation

- You've been meeting together now about 2.5 years –
 - my vision then: some of you and other elders feeling like not belonging b/c didn't or couldn't do ctte work anymore but wanted to do something, still had need to participate, to feel like they belonged – my vision of group was to discuss that, to explore that and perhaps through exploring ways to do this would come – it's happening
- I recommend the book – Elderhood – maybe this group reads it together and discuss it; it's insightful and interesting;
- How else might the church deal with meeting the needs of elders? I want to talk about that and what/how you can continue helping/giving/doing for the church

Give church update through how it will affect their age group, (NOT a general update)

What's happening at church and how it affects this group/group members.

- New staff in Chase Pado and Lara and more flexibility in music/worship – how this affects your group – it means some change, appreciating different genres or learn other music;
- Tania and I are adjusting to just the two of us and what that looks like, what gets done by us, others and what's on hiatus until next year's intern...for you it may mean we might be less approachable or busier...and while we're busier, it's true, we both went into ministry to service people, not run a non-profit necessarily...which means we want to be engaging with you so ask that we meet with you, create ritual and worship with you, talk/meet together; share what Sunday worship is meaningful to you and how to encourage that more...
- Board, JTW, and other key lay leaders met in early August for visioning work – used material from the summer What I Appreciate about Church and What's my Dream church work led by Angela Garcia-Sims and her team
- There's a team of Board members and lay leaders working on a draft of a strategic plan – that incorporates this work
- And VTF – Core team, subcommittees, it's on the website
- Timeline and process – we will do our process, not adhere to their timeline; we'll focus on our process and I hope after our work and deliberation, we'll be able to have a

decision by March – don't want to rush but don't want to linger as it drains the energy and more.

- All of this, whether we go or stay, will mean change. Change is easy to understand if we choose to go, but change also if we stay because we need to live within our means and our income stream from the parking fell 100K last year; it may pick up some with their construction but it won't last, esp. as they build more parking for themselves...so we need to be visionary and plan for the future with much less coming from the parking lot and that will mean change – at least from the way it's been for the last 12 years or so.

*How does all of this affect you? (because change never easy)

I need your help, in two ways – 1) if not subcommittee members on VTF, then as resource people maybe – discuss what this means – resource group...

We're going to break into table conversations now and here are the questions I'm hoping you will discuss:

- What have been major transitions in your life?
- What have been the transitions you didn't want to make but once made, turned out better than you thought/expected?
- How did you get through the transition? What helped you get through it/them?

*Larger group discussion then – I need to hear some of your responses –

Table 1 (which included Mike and Penny Moreau, Betsy Stevens, Jane Takahashi, among others)
Retirement and downsizing were big transitions; conversation ventured into the VTF and the need to have facts before us, i.e., projected income and expenses, our total assets. Betsy S. is a great resource...Jane too as she used to work for the County in their planning department; Mike and Penny are thinking to get involved.

Table 2 (which included Benita, Anny Love, and several others)
we need acceptance, alternative ideas, trust...need to create new habits and routines

Table 3 (which included John and Peggy Holl, Kay P and Dan H, among others)
A life of dignity, respect, support from the church – something important to remember is that there isn't one way to do things

Table 4 (which included Caroline and others)
A support group, know we're not doing it alone, and we're wondering about UU Senior housing, retirement

Table 5 (which include Tom and Carolyn O-T, Elizabeth and George B., among others)
Strength of relationship, trust with our partners; the need to keep learning

Table 6 (which included Nedra, Marv, Sig and Tam and others)
4 categories of transition in our lives, the support of family and friends; church, our

inner strength, flexibility, new directions and new careers.

Table 7 (which Joan C., Tomas, Paul M and others) – that it’s okay to make mistakes, faith, trust in friends, family groups...change personal goals...remember elders have made it through...knowing the facts, financial facts and planning.

Second way I need your help - with holding for the congregation and those on these subcommittees how WE can make it through this transition and change – again, not necessarily about leaving – but change even if we stay here. At some point in the meeting, I clarified that this is a congregational decision, not mine, not the Board, but the congregation – after our process; I clarified that my ministry is about two things: 1 - helping people live lives of meaning and values, pastoral care to the membership and 2- ensuring the church is living its mission in a sustainable way for the long haul.

Q&A time -

To start off the Q&A section of our time together, Betsy S. agreed that yes, we need trust and support and knowledge, especially financial knowledge – our assets, UCSD appraisal, and can our financial picture be put on our website in a way that is understandable to lay people. I said yes, we would do what we could for this and I invited them to any finance meeting; I said our Profit and Loss statement showed our total assets are about 6 million.

Are we talking to an urban planner (a future thinking person)?

We need to hear directly from our real estate broker – about what’s out there. I responded that yes, we will – through forums and yes...

Someone was worried about the health hazards that we may experience through the construction process of UCSD. I responded good point and we’ll want to address this.

How do we transmit all the information here to others who are here and want to review it as well as to those who aren’t here? I agreed that my notes and information would be typed up and put on the VTF webpage and we agreed that for those not using computers, they could receive information via mail. We’ll need to spell out to access the VTF page or how to use a searchable tool. It was also discussed that sensitive information will go out via e-blast and not public on the website. Caroline will help create a list of folks who need information mailed to them.

There were comments about how important it is to ensure Young Adults, and families with young children are included in the process...that involvement means more their presence in the room but truly in the decision-making process.

Derek would like a copy of these notes emailed to him.