

CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATE 5/7/21

Here are some updates since the Church Council voted to move toward a single board model as soon as July.



1. We have a coach!

- Rev. Dr. Michelle Holmes Chaney (on our Alexandria District Staff) is a certified coach in Single Board Model and is ready to help us.
- I talked to Michelle and she helped clarify some of what's ahead of us. Among other things she said we should use the term “Single Board” because the full “Simplified Accountable Structure” cannot be put in place by July 1. That involves other steps, especially listening to the congregation to discern a vision for the future. Grace will have a chance to do that through Strategic Planning. Michelle says that sounds great. For now, just move to a single board for leadership and administrative reasons.
- Michelle is meeting with the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee on Monday May 10.

2. The District Superintendent is on board

- I spoke with DS Jeff Mickle today and he says our plan for a shift is possible and he reminded me that the dozens of churches he’s helped through this process have all had good results and enthusiastic response.
- Jeff also made sure we know that the required “seats” on a board are in the Book of Discipline in ¶252.5.
- Jeff said what can be achieved most readily by July 1 is that we elect a single board which serves as the Trustees, Finance Committee, SPRC, and Church Council all in one. This is exactly what Nominations understands that the Council has asked to happen.

- Finally, Jeff made one important correction. It was my understanding that the Church Council vote sufficed. I now understand that the change in leadership structure does in fact require a charge conference vote. So, that will be on the agenda for our June 7 charge conference.

3. We need to communicate!

- Especially since this will require a charge conference vote, we need to get the word out to the congregation and keep communication up with the Church Council.
- We sent out this document including the announcement about the structural change. We will listen during the Town Hall for the consent of the congregation.
- If the Church Council plan meets resistance, that is no problem. We will simply slow down. This will involve electing folks in their current rolls (while letting those who need to rotate off to do so), and ask that they serve until we have a charge conference approved plan to pursue.

4. Nominations has started to strategize and discern a bit.

- I asked Nominations a few questions as we start to discern members of the single board whom we think God would have us nominate. Here's some of what they shared.
 - i. What are the characteristics we value in a Board member?
 1. Devout Christian Faith
 2. They have the church's best interest at heart
 3. Open-minded to new possibilities and multiple perspectives
 4. Good Emotional Intelligence
 5. Attend Worship Regularly
 6. Have a record of church service
 7. Practicing a growing faith
 8. Involved and aware of church ministry beyond one ministry area
 9. Ability to keep the main thing the main thing
 10. Wants excellence, not just maintenance

That's all for now. I plan to send you weekly updates for the foreseeable future. As always, please reply with questions. I'm happy to make time for one-on-one or small group conversation.