

## Church Council Updates, May 21, 2021

Overview: Below are seven updates from this week. Note that the first update refers you to a second attachment. That attachment is the most significant update to read and ask questions about.



### **1. Grace UMC Ministry Teams**

- a. Under the single-board structure beginning in July most of the on-the-ground ministry of the church is conducted by ministry teams. The attached working document gives you an idea of what those ministry teams may be.
- b. Current members of Finance, Trustees, and SPRC, may be invited to work on one of these teams.
- c. Other current members of Church Council may continue working on their team, but the name and scope may change in the months ahead.
- d. Overall, please review this Ministry Teams document and email or call Pastor Drew with any questions you have for the Nominations Committee.
- e. We are especially curious if you're aware of essential ministry that's not accounted for on one of these teams.

### **2. Grace Leadership Board Nominees**

- a. The Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee has identified a bank of nominees to ask to serve on the 9-member Board (plus one youth and the senior pastor for a total of 11).
- b. Nominations wants you to know that we have an abundance of qualified, capable, and gifted leaders who could serve and may be asked to serve in subsequent years.
- c. Nominations is starting to make initial phone calls to be followed up with position descriptions for board members, a draft annual calendar of Board responsibilities, and a draft sample Board meeting agenda.

- d. We hope to have a slate of willing nominees to publish as soon as June 1, but definitely by June 6 so members have a chance to see the slate before the June 7 Charge Conference.

### **3. Town Hall Report**

- a. The Town Hall on May 17 was attended by 59 “zoom screens,” many of which were occupied by more than one person and the occasional dog or cat.
- b. Notes on the Town Hall are included in another attachment from this email.
- c. By and large the Town Hall seems to have been informative and positive.
- d. The Nominations and Lay Leadership team has heard plenty of support and no extraordinary reservations about the plans to move to a single board structure.

### **4. One Week at Grace**

- a. We want you to know about the week we’ve had at Grace.
- b. By the Sunday night Grace staff and members will have collaborated to offer 3 funerals, one wedding, one baptism, and nine confirmations.
- c. One of the funerals and the baptism are from families we met first through online ministry in the last year.
- d. Also, since we have begun worshipping both online and in person our average worship attendance has jumped by 100 persons. Measuring online worship is tricky, but we know that offering both online and in-person expands the reach of the gospel, for which we are thankful.
- e. This is just one way to measure the Alpha and Omega in action through the ministry of the church. Christ is reaching new people and welcoming them home through your our shared ministry. Thanks be to God.

### **5. COVID Updates**

- a. Given the new CDC guidelines, pending Healthy Church Team approval, you can anticipate the following changes in our pandemic ministry guidelines:
  - i. **Starting Monday, May 24:**

1. Indoor meetings of groups of 25 adults or fewer may be “mask optional.” Social distancing is still required.
  2. The Church Office will be open 9am-2pm M-F with no appointment required.
  3. Masking and Social Distancing are optional for all outdoor gatherings and outdoor worship.
- ii. Starting Sunday May 30:**
1. Masking and Social Distancing are still required in worship.<sup>1</sup>
  2. Registration will not be required for worship
  3. No health acknowledgement forms or processes will be required for worship or other gatherings.
- iii. Soon, at a date to be determined:**
1. Social distancing will be reduced to 3 ft indoors.
  2. Nursery will be open for worship.
  3. The Playscape will be open.
  4. Masks will be optional for all Grace activities including worship.
- b. Please continue to pray for high vaccination rates and no COVID spike in the Fall.

**Thank you for reading. God bless you!**

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<sup>1</sup> We are continuing to require masks in worship because we do not plan to require vaccination in order to worship, and in one poll we found that about half of worshipers are not yet comfortable worshipping in a mask-optional environment. For now, we'll continue to mask, but our goal is to move toward “mask optional” worship in the near future.