

Church Council Update - May 28, 2021

It's been another full week of ministry at Grace, and the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee has made some good progress preparing for the June 7 Charge Conference. Below are some updates.



1. **Making Progress!** The slate of Grace Leadership Board nominees is coming along nicely. A full slate of nominees, as well as an official proposal to be approved by Charge Conference, will be published next week. Below are the nominees that have already agreed to serve on the Grace Leadership Board.

1. **Sharon Berry, Treasurer**
2. **Jonathan Bukva, Board Chair**
3. **Blair Jost**
4. **Riley Moran**
5. **Pat Pate**
6. **Jen Woolard**
7. **Marilyn Uzzle**

Note that on the board you will find diversity of age, experience, and expertise. One thing you will not find on the Board so far is racial diversity. I want you to know that there were numerous people of color on our Nominations list, some of whom were approached but have declined this particular opportunity to serve. They will continue to serve the church well in other roles. There are also other people of color on our nomination list as we find our last few nominees. We must acknowledge the lack of racial diversity in our congregation, and we pray that God will remain faithful to us and lead us toward a future where the Grace congregation reflects the racial reconciliation inaugurated in Christ's cross.

2. **Board Basics** - Attached to this update is a document that lays out the basics of the Grace Leadership Board's work. It is a document that will continue to evolve, but it was sent to all prospective board members to inform their discernment.
3. **What's Left to Do?** A lot of important work has been completed toward the change in leadership structure which the Church Council voted for back in early May, but there are still a few crucial steps to be taken before the June 7 Charge Conference. Here they are:
 1. **Complete the Slate of Nominees** - The Holy Spirit has been hard at work raising up leaders for our first class of Board leaders. There are a few people still discerning their call. We should have a complete slate ready to publish early next week.

2. **Publish Official Charge Conference Proposal** - I had a call with our District Superintendent Jeff Mickle today, and he confirmed that there must be an official proposal drawn up for the charge conference to vote on. It needs to include some detail about the mechanics of the Board. At Charge Conference, we will require a motion to accept said proposal. The proposal, along with the slate of nominees, will be published as soon as it's all prepared (at least four days before the Charge Conference). I hope it will be published in time for the last Church Council meeting on Wednesday June 2.
 3. **Email notification to Congregation** - The Charge Conference proposal, along with the slate of nominees, will be included in one of next week's two congregational emails. In addition to the proposal and the slate of nominees we plan to include copies of all other relevant documents we've created as a part of this process. The objective here is transparency. Our hope is that any Charge Conference attendees will have access to all relevant documents, and ample opportunity to ask questions or offer commentary before the June 7 Charge Conference.
 4. **Pray!** - Prayer has continued to be at the center of this work. While we are a human institution, and therefore imperfect, we trust in a God who perfects the imperfect, and has promised to send the Spirit as an advocate and helper. I believe this is exactly what has happened so far. Please join us in prayer that the same will continue. I have nothing but faith that it will.
-
4. **One Letter of Thanks** - Finally, attached to this same communique is a letter that Pastor Janet and I sent after the final meeting of the Trustees and Finance Committees. We hope this letter conveys the gratitude we have for these leaders and their work. It won't be the last letter like this we send, but I wanted you to have a chance to join us in thanking God and thanking these faithful disciples for their ministry, especially in the last year.

I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday, on Trinity Sunday.

Peace,
Drew

Rev. Drew Colby
umcgrace.org