

Church of the Saviour Council Meeting via Zoom

1:30 – 3:30 p.m., Sunday, March 12, 2023

Council Members:

Bread of Life: Terry Flood

Dayspring: Kip Landon

Eighth Day: Marcia Harrington

Friends of Jesus: x

Festival Church: Cindy Martens

Jubilee Church: Carol Bullard-Bates

New Community: Grace Dickerson

Seekers: Keith Seat

Also present:

Marjory Bankson (Moderator), Kate Lasso (Treasurer), Matthias Everhope (Digital Manager), Bill Mefford, (Festival Center), Adam Greene (Wellspring Center), Trish Stefanik (Dayspring), Ann Moczydlowski (Dayspring), Nona Beth Cresswell (Dayspring).

The meeting began with prayer.

Agenda: Marjory

We'll begin with community reports, followed by the digital report which Matthias sent out yesterday (attached) and a discussion of our purpose for offering Inward/Outward online.

- To help with his transition to a full-time job, the title of his position will now be **Web and Digital Communications Manager**.

After a short break, we'll focus on Adam Greene, the new director at Wellspring.

COMMUNITY REPORTS:

- **Bread of Life:** Terry
 - A major shift in membership has occurred. 4 people chose not to recommit (Mike Little and Jim Marsh for a new call; Clara Debnam for the District Church, where she works; Jeanne Marcus is discerning her next step) and 5 remain as core members (Jim Knight, Carol Martin, Kim Montroll, Anthony Joseph and Terry Flood).
- **Dayspring:** Kip
 - Will continue with hybrid worship for the foreseeable future;
 - Finances for Dayspring are going well;
 - Nadjwa Hassan has gotten her citizenship—a real cause for celebration;
 - Nona Beth added:
 - **Easter Sunrise service for Church of the Saviour will be held at 6am in the Wellspring Center! Billy Amoss will offer the Word.**
- **Eighth Day:** Marcia
 - Welcomed a new baby, Naomi Everhope, daughter of Matthias and Emily;
 - Continuing hybrid worship at the Potter's House and plan to march from PH to the reopened Festival Center on Palm Sunday!
 - Enjoyed a community one-day retreat at Dayspring;
 - Leadership Council is discerning next steps in their anti-racism programming.
 - Marcia added that she and Meade Jones had met with Mike Hopkins and Pam Ford (Friends of Jesus) and specifically invited Mike to attend this meeting.
 - They outlined the five expectations of a CoS community which we identified at our last meeting: **regular worship, commitment to follow Jesus Christ, support for the inward/outward journey of core members, ability to maintain 501-c-3 status with the DC govt and regular participation in the Council.**
- **Festival Church:** Cindy

- Looking forward to worship-in-person at the Festival Center, where they will have the capacity for a hybrid-hookup with non-local members;
 - Planning future events for the Parr Lecture Series at the Festival Center.
- **FESTIVAL CENTER:** Bill
 - **The Festival Center will reopen at 8am on Monday, March 27! All are invited!!**
 - Permit (which delayed the opening on March 10) has come;
 - “commissioning” will happen next week (we pray);
 - All will be ready by Palm Sunday;
 - The whole project has taken 3 years!
- **Friends of Jesus:** no report.
 - **Jubilee:** Carol
 - Nearly all taking a New Testament class with Jeridah Elungata (Jeri) as she prepares for core membership.
 - **New Community:** Grace
 - Enjoying combined preparation with Pavillion of God and 6th St. Presbyterian Church for confirmation/baptism for middle-school & high school kids, who will be ready for BAPTISM or CONFIRMATION on Easter Sunday;
 - Looking forward to an outdoor retreat with kids at Dayspring on Sat, April 29.
 - **Seekers:** Keith
 - Have hired Charles Taylor from outside the community to be the main person hosting online worship;
 - Typically have 20-25 in-person and 20 online sites (some with couples);
 - Outside users of our space is beginning to pick up again;
 - School for Christian Growth will have our first in-person class: Protest Kitchen, featuring tasty vegan meals to support our partnership with CreatureKind;
 - On April 29, there will be a zoom poetry retreat sponsored by *Vita Poetica*;
 - Construction around Seekers -- 1600 units being built nearby.
 - **Digital Report:** Matthias
 - Total email audience is 4,925; Facebook is 1,260; no data for Twitter users;
 - Mailchimp admitted an error in its program caused IO not to be posted at 6am each day (we lost about 5% of our readers) and gave us 3 months free as compensation;
 - No hacks this year (noted connection between political comments and hack activity);
 - Wanted to update the look of the website and add books, but didn't have time;
 - Thanked the council for supporting his call to upgrade our digital presence and offered to help with a smooth transition.

Discussion:

Q: How are we using Facebook and Twitter now?

A: Just posting InwardOutward and tracking likes. Some quotes get reposted.

Q: Is that the purpose of IO?

A: (Marjory) I see IO as nourishing people who've had Church of the Saviour experience.

(Matthias) My call has been to reach a younger audience who need to know about C of S.

(Keith) Being on social media tells a younger group that we're not just a past experience.

Q: Are we wanting to attract new members? Or just make the IO model known?

A: (Marjory) If we are trying to make people aware of the IO model, we need to change the content. Then the discussion turned to possibilities of connecting the IO posts with Festival Center and Wellspring and we ended with a sense that the Spirit was moving in this area...

EXTENDED DISCUSSION: meeting Wellspring's new director, Adam Greene

- **Adam** introduced himself (his article in the current issue of CALLINGS is attached).
- **Members** of the Wellspring Mission Group (Trish and Ann) spoke of what attracted them to his call.
 - **Trish:** the question I am holding is “What is it to be healed? Reconciled? She cited Rilke’s reference to “loving the questions” and today’s gospel (John 4: Samaritan Woman) for our need to “widen our vision, deepen our faith and ignite new possibilities;”
- **Bill:** feeling a resonance with Adam around innovation and openness to the Spirit; looks forward to collaboration between Festival Center and Wellspring (after March 29 opening);
- **Terry:** spoke of Don McClanen’s vision which got Lilly money for Wellspring Center to address racial inequality via the Ministry of Money;
- **Carol:** excited by his vision for welcoming LGBTQ people and addressing white supremacy;
- **Cindy:** responded to deep need for difficult conversations, especially need to counter Christian Nationalism;
- **Grace:** encouraged Adam to visit New Community & asked about his plans for financial viability;
 - Adam: desire to broaden financial base to make Wellspring accessible for those who can’t pay;
- **Matthias:** inclusivity has been a big interest for me (hybrid worship, children on Dayspring retreats, attracting younger people) and how to raise our voice against Christian Nationalism;
- **Marcia:** impressed by your openness to creating a place to talk about hard questions (referred to an Iona retreat where pastors talked about things they couldn’t say “at home”);
- **Keith:** invited Adam to Seekers, encouraging him to know the diversity and gifts already here;
- **Nona Beth** (Dayspring): affirmed Adam’s skill as a listener, both to the humans and the land itself.

Closed with a prayerful meditation on listening to the land as our common call.

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2023 Council meetings: Second Sunday of odd months (Jan 8, Mar 12, May 14, ~~July~~, Sept 10, Nov 12)
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CALLINGS deadlines: Feb 15, May 15, Aug 15, Nov 15
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-- Notes by Marjory Bankson

3/15/2023