

Southwest Winds

Tell people who are rich at this time not to become egotistical and not to place their hope on their finances, which are uncertain. Instead, they need to hope in God, who richly provides everything for our enjoyment. Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others. When they do these things, they will save a treasure for themselves that is a good foundation for the future. That way they can take hold of what is truly life.

CEB 1 Timothy 6:17-19

September Session Summary A New Way of Being the Church

This month's session meeting (September 13) concerned itself with two main topics. *The first was the reorganization of our committees.* Under the structure suggested by the PC(USA), the elders elected to Session are responsible to lead the committees of the church, and to oversee all of the decisions and actions of the church. This has a tendency to "bottleneck" the work of the congregation – committees meet once a month, make decisions, then have to wait for the Session to approve the decision before they can act, diminishing initiative and enthusiasm. It also means we have ended up having the same people involved with specific committees for years on end, often simply because they feel "someone has to do it." When only a few people are able to participate we end up with a set way of doing things that makes it harder for new people to bring their best ideas or to add their creativity.

In order to address this, the Session asked Pastor Lorelei to come up with a new organizational structure that might facilitate participation and growth. The plan she presented at the Session meeting specifically changed the Deacon's duties from the one Board with several functions to smaller teams which will have specific responsibilities; it also divided the Worship Committee's many areas of oversight into teams which will plan and execute specific aspects of the worship life of the church. Pastor Lorelei created this team-based plan - limiting responsibilities and focusing areas of interest - in order to make it possible for more people to join in the activities of our ministry. Church members can choose the ways they would like to serve, knowing what their volunteer work will entail and the sort of commitment (time, energy, skills) they are making as

we develop "job descriptions" for each team. The different teams will continue to be formed/reformed, with the goal of streamlining activities, then asking the congregation to volunteer for the team or teams they feel called to join. In this way, as our church grows we will be able to respond to new directions by creating new teams or retiring teams that have completed their tasks.

The teams are organized in three categories: **Thought, Word, and Deed** – directly from our Mission Statement. This will help us to arrange our work together more efficiently. We will hold team meetings on Wednesdays. All teams under Thought will meet on the first Wednesday of the month, Word on the second Wednesday, and Deed on the third Wednesday. Teams will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the church for no more than one hour; then all of the teams for that category will meet together and share their work with the other teams in their category for half an hour. Limiting time means we have to stay organized, but it also means our meetings won't go late into the evening. The fourth Wednesday of the month will be reserved for the Session to meet. The schedule is consistent, the day and time generally available to most people, and we will provide child care. [Just a note: with all the hard work done over the last months clearing out the rooms downstairs, we now have room for several teams to meet at the church at the same time! Our thanks to each person who gave their time and labor to make that possible!] We realize that this structure will require us to make decisions about what we want to participate in. This means we will also need to work hard to improve our communications, so people know what opportunities are available. We will also have to make sure to ask for help when we need it! We think the new organization will improve three things: it will "lighten the load" for everyone who makes a commitment to volunteer; it will make it easier for all members to

offer their support in ways that they enjoy; and it will open doors for new members to get involved. We will be putting this new structure in place over the next few months, and will be asking for your feedback as we go. Please do your best to be positive! Change is always hard, so we will need to support and encourage one another. The Session set a date for September 2019 to do a congregational review of this new organization; in the meantime, do feel free to talk to Pastor Lorelei about your observations and experiences. After a rigorous discussion, the Session approved the new structure, giving our support to “doing church differently” with ongoing prayer and attention to the Spirit’s guiding. Contact Pastor Lorelei if you would like to know more.

The second action taken by the Session was the result of many months of dialogue, prayer, and reflection about membership for our congregation. In April, we began a new covenant membership pathway. The covenant is simply: “I covenant to growth in Jesus Christ, and with the life of this congregation for one year.” We hoped this would allow more flexibility for folks who want to make a commitment to this church, both in terms of denominational affiliation and considering that many people come into, and go out of, our community after a short time.

We approved covenant membership knowing that we hadn’t worked it all out, and that lack of clarity soon became a problem. We had said from the beginning, “A covenant member is a member, they get to do anything a ‘traditional member’ gets to do.” But our Presbyterian Church (USA) polity said that was not allowed – only ‘traditional members’ who had answered the questions of membership, were allowed to be elected to ordained offices to serve as Elders or Deacons.

The Session realized that we were ending up with a two-tiered membership: traditional members were able to fully participate, covenant members could not. At this Session meeting, the decision was made that ALL members are full members, and may participate and serve in all aspects of the life of the church. This means we will be ordaining both traditional and covenant members to church leadership roles. As a church, we now say, there are three ways to become a member of our congregation: letter of transfer from another church (ongoing), affirmation of faith (ongoing), or covenant (one year, renewable). Should a member who has joined by covenant be called to serve as an elder

[under our new structure, we no longer have a Board of Deacons] and agree to make that commitment, they will be required to extend their covenant for the three years of service with the Session. We will continue to use the same ordination process (call and election) and the same ordination liturgy for the PC(USA). We consider that ordination is not an action of a specific denomination, but a calling from God to servant leadership that is affirmed for an individual by the body which they are being called to serve. We fully understand that this is an extraordinary decision, which we have taken after much consideration and prayer, trusting that God is working through us for the future of our ministry.

Again, please do contact Pastor Lorelei if you have any questions about this decision.

Rev. Lorelei Kay

Extravagant Generosity

Extravagant generosity is the theme for this year’s month-long stewardship season, looking at gifts of our time and talents as well as monetary support for WPC. It is about how we live and how we are changed by our generosity. Small group meetings will be held the first, second and third weeks of October. **Pledges are to be turned in and dedicated on October 28.** Here is a list of the meetings.

Wednesday, October 10 & 17 – “**Extravagant Generosity**”
Men’s Study Group (9:30 a.m.) at PeeWee’s Restaurant ((1644 S. Second Street) – contact Tom Funk for more information 863-6336 / tomfkn@yahoo.com

Wednesday, October 10 & 17 – “**Extravagant Generosity**”
Evening Study Group (7:00 p.m.) at Pam Burgess and Sharna Sutherin’s home 1825 Milda
pburgess48@yahoo.com
Home 863-6030

Thursday, October 10 & 17 – “**Extravagant Generosity**”
Afternoon Study Group (1:30-3:00 p.m.) at Kathy & John Mezoff’s (508 Cabezon Court) – contact Kathy 870-6136 / kmezoff@gmail.com

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Held Sunday, September 16, 2018

Twenty-four people attended our first Congregational Council meeting. Our moderator, Rev. Lorelei Kay, began the meeting with prayer, then proceeded to explain the new organizational chart for Westminster Presbyterian Church (WPC). **Please see the report on our Session meeting for more information about the overall way this new organization will work.** What follows are general descriptions of what each category might include as teams:

1. Thought Category: the Vision Team, all aspects of Christian education, new members classes, and church leadership training
2. Word Category: creative worship, music, sanctuary preparation, communion, our Taize service, and communications (newsletter, website, facebook, and publicity)
3. Deed Category: lay pastoral care team, neighborhoods, providing meals, our Prayer Circle, community engagements such as our 'We Care' packages or other current/potential outreach ministries, hospitality, property usage, property maintenance, and fundraising

The session will continue to be responsible to oversee all ministry and mission of the church, to keep records, and to organize the Congregational Councils; the congregation, through the Congregational Council meetings will determine activities and priorities in the life of the church.

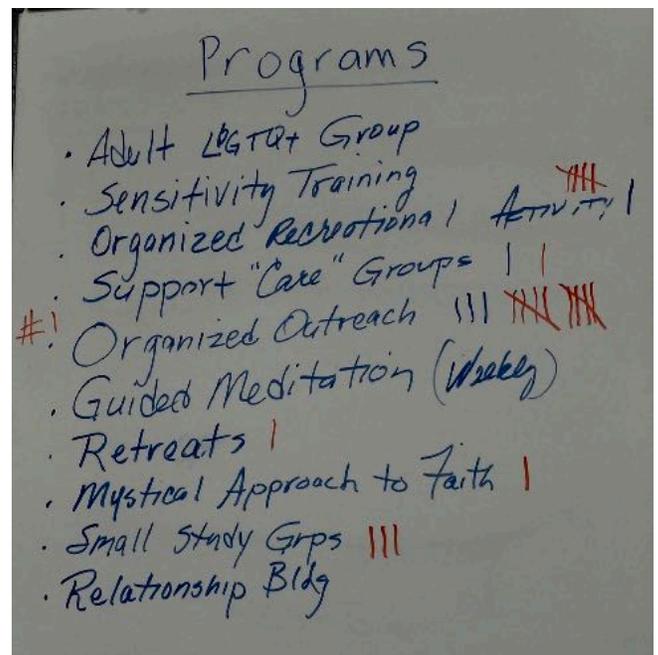
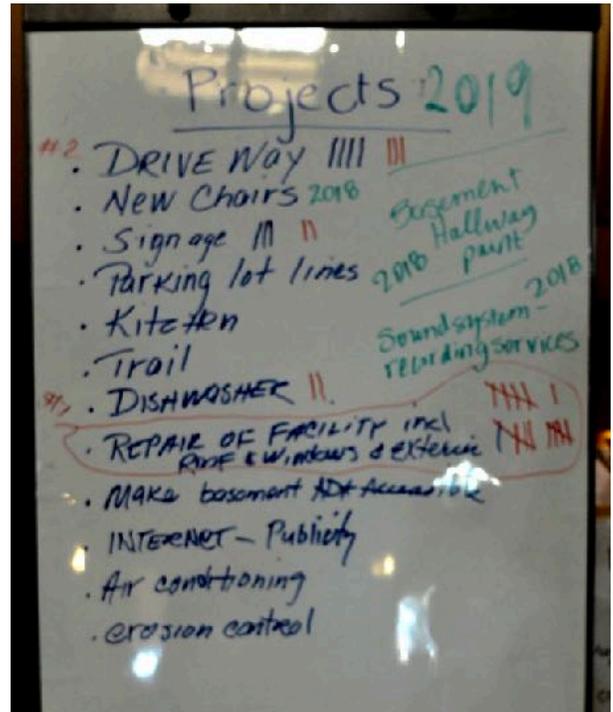
The meeting then moved on to discernment. Lorelei asked a question offered by Pam Burgess: "What are we yearning for; what would we like to have accomplished five years from now? Or, what will you be willing to invest your time in?" We went around the circle once to list the **projects** (capital expenditures) we thought would be important, then once around again to rank them. A third time around the circle to list **programs** we would like to support and/or develop, and a fourth time to rank the one we thought we should begin with. Pam listed the ideas offered, and marked the ones people said they would be willing to work toward.

Of the projects, **repair of facility** including windows, roof, and exterior work had the strongest support. (the roof repair was already in the works, and has now been done – at no cost! Big thanks to Gallup Roofing for this!)

For programs, the primary activity supported by the congregation was **organized outreach**. Here, we are looking for a way for the congregation to come together to connect to our community as a body, through acts of service. This will require us to

do more discernment, so please be in prayer that we will be sensitive to God's hope for us. With respect for the time, the meeting ended at this point. The Session will schedule our next Congregational Council to enable us to move forward with these priorities. Your participation is important, so please do your best to attend!

Respectfully, John Mezzoff
with help from Lorelei



From the Deacons

Thank you to all for the love and support you showed Betty Chapman's family. The food and drink donations were very much appreciated as well as the help setting up and cleaning up afterwards. We want to give a special thank you to Eryn Hannink and Marge Strickler for hosting the reception.

Nicole Jones

Birthdays and Anniversaries

October

Eric van Hartesveldt & Betsy Windisch (1st, anniversary)

Nicole Jones (4th, birthday)

Patrice Olson (16th, birthday)

Marge Strickler (19th, birthday)

Thank you Eryn Hannink

Rev. Lorelei Kay Graduates from McKinley Leadership September 6, 2018



Special thanks to Pam Burgess and Valdine for submitting their pictures of this event.

New Memorial Bench in the WPC Playground



The family of Marilyn Johnson donated this lovely bench to the WPC playground. Sharna, Pam, and Tom Funk did the work of designing, ordering, and getting the bench to the playground. Thanks to them and the family for this beautiful and functional addition to our happy facility.

The
Tree
of
Life



Please take notice of the new metal Tree of Life sculpture hanging on the wall to your right as you enter the sanctuary. This was approved by the Worship Committee to replace the crosses that have been hanging there. This tree was created from a 55-gallon drum and supports an organization, Beyond Borders, that works with village artisans of Haiti. The proceeds contribute to the economic improvement of the Haitian metal artists and their families. If you are interested, check out the website www.haitimetalart.com to see a variety of their lovely creations. Kathy Mezoff

Southwest Winds

October 2018

The date for submission to the editor for the October edition will be **November 2, 2018**

Southwest Winds is published on a monthly basis except during the summer to report on church activities and be another medium of communication between members and friends of WPC

Editor and Publisher, John Mezoff
Editor, Kathy Mezoff

Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA)

is located a mile south of the intersection of Historic Route 66 and Boardman (State Highway 564) on Boardman

Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:30 AM

The Church Telephone is (505) 905-3247

The Church Website is <www.wpcgallup.org>



Westminster Presbyterian Church

Our Values:

We, the community of Westminster Presbyterian Church, desire to live in harmony with Mother Earth and all of God's Creation. We are a community that cherishes and practices worship, healing, hospitality, justice, peacemaking, and spiritual growth.

Our Mission:

We are a family of believers in Jesus Christ, who imperfectly embody the love of God. As a community of faith, we are called to make visible to the world God's hope for humanity and all of creation. We proclaim Jesus in thought, word, and deed. We welcome and publicly affirm all peoples as created in the image of God and invite all to join us on this journey.

Our Vision:

Thought: We are intentional about faith, reading scriptures in community and discerning together God's character and God's guidance.

Word: We listen for God to speak through the person and teachings of Jesus. We have the courage to speak out in support of social justice.

Deed: Our faith is made alive in our actions.

All of these come together when we gather as the people of God - including people of all sexual orientations and gender identities; of varied cultures, classes and statuses; and with differing understandings of the Divine - seeking truth and lifting each other up with compassion and love.

The
First Congregational
Council
Meeting
held
September 16, 2018

