

Leadership Transition Team Announcement and September Update

Following is the announcement that I made to the congregation on Sunday, 8/28/22, the last Sunday in August, after the Leadership Transition focus group meetings of 8/7/22 and 8/17/22. Because we were accepting written questionnaires until 8/31/22, this announcement could not be included in the September newsletter. Here is the announcement, along with a September update. The August focus groups and questionnaires and September evaluations of the answers are only the first steps of this ongoing process of finalizing a church profile.

Thanks to all of the 54 the members of this congregation who attended and participated in our two focus groups hosted by the Elders and the Leadership Transition Team (LTT) and those of you who returned your written responses to the questionnaires. This was the start and only the first step of several steps in the process to find and select a pastor or pastors to succeed Mark and Judi. Now in September and October, the LTT has to compile a lot of information into an orderly, coherent profile of First Christian Church of Greeley. The profile is how the denomination advertises openings and helps recruit pastoral candidates. There were a wealth of good ideas and sincere thoughts put forth by the congregation and we thank you for your good work. Now we have to evaluate and condense that wealth of information and ideas and decide what can be used effectively in a search for a new pastor or pastors. Not all of the ideas can be implemented right now as we are just now reestablishing some things like choir, Worship Committee, etc. but because we can't do everything right away doesn't mean their going to be forgotten and are not going to be implemented in the future. They are now a part of our collective memory and will be considered for action as we go forward from here.

In reviewing your input, one thing that jumped out at us was that some of you were wondering who were on the LTT, how they were selected, and that some of you would have volunteered if you had been asked to. Please remember that for a couple of Sundays last spring, in April I announced the LTT and introduced the LTT members in an announcement before Church. I also included an article in the May newsletter explaining why we thought an orderly transition plan needed to be developed and for anyone who had ideas and was interested in participating to contact the members of the Team for we knew it would take ALL OF US for this process to be successful and truly represent what you as a congregation wanted.

So let me reintroduce the initial members of the LTT who were selected from various elected team leaders already on the General Board and one new volunteer member who is younger and not a baby boomer but a young member of the millennial generation deliberately recruited because we needed to hear from her generation too. Members of the Leadership and Transition Team are Bill Rusher—board chair, Debbie Berg—board vice chair, Mike McGuire—staff relations, Verna Recor—recorder, Carla Ikenouye—missions, Jodi Hartmann—elders, Alicia Loschen—diaconate and youth, and Taylor Rainbolt our new millennial member. Staff as adjunct nonvoting members are Mark Pumphrey, Judi Ring, and Sue Tjardes. We asked for your input and participation then and we ask for your continued participation now, if you want to help we never turn volunteers away without giving them a chance to work.

Sincerely,
Bill Rusher,
FCC of Greeley Board Chairperson