

Bothell United Methodist Church

Charge Conference 2016

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world

The meeting began with opening songs: *Come Let Us Worship, Can I Ascend* at 7:05 pm

Rev. Rich Lang opened with prayer at 7:11 pm. He likened God's faithfulness to a water wheel, with the Father continually pouring God's self out. The same with Jesus. The same with the Holy Spirit.

"This generation is living in a moment when we're invited to work w/ God, the creative impulse of life, to care for creation, shape the values of the future. In sending out Sarah, we're sending out our church into the world. ... You probably have the most gifted pastoral staff in the conference.

Thank you for your leadership. It matters."

Business Items were addressed:

- Approval of Candidates – Paul Vahey, Chair of Staff Parish Relations
 - For Ordained Ministry: Kristin Joyner, Joe Kim, Sharon Ryder *Candidates were approved and prayed for.*
 - For Certified Lay Servant: Jim Russell *Jim was prayed for.*
- Membership report – Betty Brown presented the membership report. *The names Oz and Sarah Aksan, and Steve Wooley and Maria Vittone, were removed from the listed to be voted for removal. The ten remaining names were removed by vote.*

Accountability questions

- Have all the church's financial activities been audited for 2015? If not, what year was your last completed audit? What is the plan for completion? – Ron Johanson, Treasurer answered, YES.
- Are your corporate status and property tax exemptions current? Jim Russell, Chair of Trustees, answered YES.
- Is your insurance current and paid? Jim Russell, Chair of Trustees answered YES.
- Does your church have a current and enforced "Safe Churches" policy? Are you doing national background checks on volunteers and staff? Celeste Deveney, Director of Program Ministries, answered YES on behalf of Gregg Field, Designated Safety Officer.
- Is your church current on its apportionments? If not, what is your plan? Ron Johanson, Treasurer, answered YES.

- Review and Assess Church Council 2.0 – Lynne Pearson, Chair, Governing Board updated all present on the work done over the past year to get to the point where the new Governing Board slate for 2017 could be voted upon.

Election of leaders

Alan Jacobsen, Chair, Leadership Development/Nominations explained the qualifications that the nominating committee considered when looking at applicants to serve on the Governing Board.

Discussion followed about the structure and whether it was an acceptable, working structure per the Book of Discipline. Rev. Lang reinforced that this governing board structure is our checks and balances. It is being adopted by more and more churches to effectively meet the needs of churches today.

Other questions raised included whether anyone on the slate was related to one another or a staff member. The answer is NO.

A question was asked about how all the work of the church could be done by only 2 Trustees. The answer is that there will be an active group addressing Trustees issues called the Facilities Team. Our Trustees have, in fact, already formed sub-teams to address their various duties.

The question was raised as to whether Governing Board meetings will be open to all. Answer is YES, apart from Staff Parish Relations issues.

The question was raised as to why there aren't past, present and future chairs for each position? Alan Jacobsen explained that this current slate is just for one year as we discern how this structure works best for us.

The question was asked as to how information and issues get to the Governing Board and disseminated from the Board to the congregation. Alan Jacobsen addressed this issue by affirming that each ministry and support team has a staff member assigned to them. The staff member will interface with be the point of communications between the Governing Board, the teams and the congregation.

Lee Huffman moved that we accept this structure for 2017. The motion was seconded by Patsy Ethridge-Neal. The Motion passed upon vote.

Lee Huffman moved that approve the proposed slate of people to serve on the Governing Board in 2017. Ron Johanson seconded the motion. The motion passed upon vote.

The question was asked as to whether the board intentionally contains people who will look at issues from different points of view. Patsy Ethridge-Neal self-identified as a person who purposefully looks at all view points on an issue.

Alan addressed that with one spot open, the Nominations Team will continue to work on filling this one spot.

Jim Russell moved that the Nominations Team will be empowered to make recommendations to the Governing Board to fill the remaining openings on the Board, as well as any other openings that arise. The motion passed upon vote.

- Pastoral compensation for calendar year 2017 was presented by Paul Vahey, Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee. Overall compensation was increased by .5% (reflecting a modest cost of living increase.)

Patsy Ethridge-Neal moved that we approve the pastoral compensation as outlined. The motion passed upon vote.

Rev. Lang explained that we've lost nearly all of our urban churches. Bothell UMC was identified as a healthy church where a new pastor could learn our DNA and then move into an area without a church and begin a new church start.

He further stated that Seattle urban churches have collapsed largely because they failed to relate to the people moving into that area.

Rich doesn't see the Pacific Northwest as a "none" zone. He sees it as an abundance zone. We just haven't keyed in on the people who have migrated here. These people want their work to be redemptive. They're deeply spiritual, but the church is missing out on that creative, fertile community.

We value critical thinking. We want the gadflies and the people who question. We believe in prevenient grace. We believe the world is infused with the love and benevolence of God. We lift up original blessing (as opposed to original sin.)

We are connected. This isn't DJ's, Joe's or Sara's church. It's not yours either. We're a world-wide church.

Rich thanks us, on behalf of the conference, as we partner together in this exciting new venture. Rich can't wait until the 2017 Charge Conference to see what's happened in this first year.

The meeting ended with communion and prayer at 8:35.

Governing Board Slate

| Chair | SPR | Finance | Trustees | Member at Large | Lay Leader |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------|
| Lynne Pearson | Dawn Kirchner | Bill Brooks | Ron <u>Kreizenbeck</u> | Patsy <u>Ethridge-Neal</u> | Candace Larson |
| | Marlon <u>Balauag</u> | Ji-Young Kim | Eric <u>Kalume</u> | Alex <u>Katopodis</u> | |
| Lead Pastor | Recording Secretary | Executive Director | | | |
| Pastor DJ | Pastor Joe | TBA | | | |