Minutes of the Jeremiah 29:11 Task Force of Christ United Methodist Church
July 19, 2022

Present:

Bill Stoltz, chair	Bob Ayers, vice chair	Barbara Burnham
Sunday Coffman	Ken Crouch	Sue Fredrickson
Sarah Jowell	Gail McClendon	Liz Williams
Tom Young		

Absent:
Joey Moreland
Ex officio members present:
Jim Rose, Lay Leader Jeff Thomas, Church Council chair
Chappell Temple, lead pastor

Agenda item 1: Chair Bill Stoltz opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. with a prayer.

Agenda item 2: The minutes from the July 14 meeting were delayed for approval as secretary Sue Fredrickson has not completed.

Agenda Item 3: Update on action items
Chair Bill Stoltz went through an email following the July 14 meeting with a list of "To Do" items.

Our regular meeting place will be in the Faith Corner

Additions to the work groups:

- Liz Williams is joining FAQs
- Joey Moreland and Sunday Coffman are joining Communications
- Ken Crouch will join Process

Pastor Temple distributed a timeline he had developed from Aug 1 to December 31.
Comments and actions:

- He had previously sent the Task Force an email stating the proposed Church Conference date is set for October 13; the District Superintendent Tony Vinson already had two meetings on the preferred date of October 23, although we could be squeezed in at 3:00 p.m.; the original date of Nov. 6 remains open, as is needed for Budget approval.
- The 40 Days of Prayer will begin Sept. 1; member Jeff Thomas noted that even if we don't have a vote at the Sept 25 Church Council, we can still pray for the Conference and other churches
- He will have a sermon series from Sept. 18 to Oct. 9, leading up to the possible Church Conference on Oct. 13.
- He suggested three town hall meetings, maybe two; and three congregational letters.
- There needs to be a cut off date for joining the church prior to a possible Church Conference on Oct. 13; at least 10 days before the vote; there is nothing specified in the Discipline; we need to make sure people who think they are members, but are not, have time to join.
- The timeline doesn't include Sunday School, Home groups. There also can be morning coffees and evening dessert times.

- The dates are worked around Pastor Temple's planned sabbatical from mid-August to Sept. 21.

Member Jeff Thomas was asked if there was a decision regarding the protocol for a vote within the Church Council on Sept. 25. Comments and actions from discussion:

- From the Leadership Guide, we have published: "with the approval of the majority, voting may likewise be extended to all those who are present when appropriate."
- Jeff's personal preference is open the vote having done so previously (June 5)
- Many people would be upset, or feel steam-rolled, if not allowed a vote
- Pastor Temple said it is a procedural vote, not a substantive one; he also asked: If we elect a Church Council, but then open vote to all present, what's the point of an elected body?
- We established a precedent on this particular issue at June 5 meeting
- Why is this a decision for this committee?
- Coordinating Council prior to the Church Council meeting could decide
- Jeff will send an email to the Church Council asking opinion on how to vote

Member Barbara Burnham reviewed the previously distributed (by email) document "What are we discerning about?" with answers to the questions as she saw them.

Member Tom Young had previously distributed (by email) a letter for distribution to the congregation. The communications work area offered to look at the letter and see if it fits into the timeline Pastor Temple had distributed.

Member Sue Fredrickson reported that a physical mailbox has been requested for the Work Room of the church, and it should be in place by July 24.

Chair Bill Stoltz asked about the combined Finance/Trustees meeting planned for Aug. 8; that was corrected to Aug. 15. Bill Stoltz and Bob Ayers will attend, and any other members are welcome. Jim Rose and Jeff Thomas will be there as ex officio members.

Member Barbara Burnham said the Timeline was still in process.

At 5:10, the Task Force broke into work areas, reconvening at 6:00 to give reports.

Tom Young reported that the **Frequently Asked Questions** group had reviewed many FAQs from other sources and believes that their focus should be a document that shows progression in discerning.

- It will be a three-tiered document with a question, a synopsis of the question and a detailed answer.
- The origin documentation is a 17-page document that Tom had already assembled.
- There will perhaps be as many as 30 questions.

Barbara Burnham listed **Processes** (She later provided typed notes.)

- 40 Days of Prayer – will ask Pastor Michelle Hall to be their contact.
- Labyrinth – will be available on Oct. 10; set up in the Sanctuary.
- Daily prayer time – 12:29 p.m. will be a set time for to all members to pray.
- Daily Prayer devotional – to be printed out and placed on the website
- Small groups – will utilize the groups already in place; will ask Pastor Dan Conway to be the support; the next step is talking points for those meetings.
- Monday Coffees/Desserts – will be with pastors; all committee members are invited; Oct. 3 and Oct. 10. Childcare will be available as needed.
- Town Halls – reduced from three to two events; Sunday Sept. 18 and Sunday, Oct. 9, and the times would be 4-5:30 p.m.; format would be in-person and live-streamed, with a text number for questions; moderators will be Jeff Thomas and Jim Rose due to their role as congregational leaders; three videos from the Conference meetings will be viewed at the beginning; the pastors will give a statement on where they stand; Q&A will be next using a written card system; various pastors or committee members will answer questions. The video regarding Other Options is not planned for showing.

Sue Fredrickson reported for the **Communications work area**.

- Focus is consistency of messaging
- There will be an effort to control the flow of information to prevent redundancy.
- Primary modes of communication are the email blast, Sunday videos, Sunday bulletin and the looping slides on the TV screens throughout the building, and the planned website.
- Regarding Tom Young's letter, the group suggested some changes for consistency and changes in content for flow.
- Further suggested the letter as the first Congregational Letter, with a target send date of July 26 or 28.
- Letters two and three on Pastors Temple's timeline were suggested to be put on hold until the purpose is identified. The question of snail mail was discussed with the thought of reaching out to only those not registered to receive emails.
- Questions going forward, which were suggested by the Conference Discernment Task Force, for either the J29 question of the week, or perhaps for use in Small Groups:
    - Who are we called to be as a church?
    - Why do we exist as a congregation?
    - What are the key issues for us as a congregation

Member Jeff Thomas asked that we extend an invitation to Pastor Hobbs to join our group for a future meeting. Chair Bill Stoltz will issue the invitation.

The next meeting will be July 26 at 4:30.

Chair Bill Stoltz called for closing at 6:25. Vice Chair Bob Ayers closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Fredrickson, recording secretary, Jeremiah 29:11 Task Force

Addendum to July 19, 2022 Minutes
Materials listed in minutes; hard copies available on request

July 14 email to all members recapping “To Do” items
Email from Pastor Temple announcing date for possible Church Conference
Timetable from Pastor Temple with his plans from now going forward
“What are we discerning about” questions (pdf)
Process work area minutes for 7-19 (pdf)