

On behalf of the Board, as secretary, I prepared this summary of highlights and observations made at the Congregational Meeting of October 27th, 2013. Please note, as this was not an official Church Business meeting, these do not represent official minutes. (Liette M. Collier)

Congregational Meeting Highlights:

The Journey Church: Brentwood Campus

October 27, 2013: 3 – 4:30pm

- Discussion of proposed changes for section 5 of bylaws re: Church Membership definition
- Proposed new section 7: Addition of Discipline, Reconciliation, and Restoration bylaw
- Update on Weiler Report

Attendance: 20

- Seth opened in prayer
- The question of whether the board would be defining active or inactive members and consider the many dimensions of this was asked and led to great discussion throughout most of the meeting.
 - It was stated that while ‘discipline’ was seen more as a final stage element, the active/inactive member situation should be addressed in a separate paragraph in the bylaws, perhaps with a related scale system –there should be language around this issue.
 - The question was asked, what does faithful attendance look like? Inactive member should be clearly defined.
 - It was asserted that a membership responsibility should include asking about inactivity in fellow members. This is not a task for leadership alone but rather a part of membership in a church family and an element of a growing disciple.
 - It was stated that the length of time –year or multiple years, should be defined. Great discussion followed in this as there are many possible scenarios that could influence inactivity.
 - It was suggested that trigger mechanisms be part of the defined process, this including discussion, checking in with the inactive members, and clarifying the steps required to return to active membership otherwise they would be removed from the membership list. This does not mean that they would be

removed from the church but that they would lose the advantages permitted to members.

- The question was asked whether there was a current process involved to declare the responsibilities of membership.
 - It was stated that there is a sign-in covenant that all new members sign as part of the Belong process and that this document is meant to hold members accountable.
- The question was asked, what is healthy accountability?
 - This led to discussion of Section 5. It was clarified that it means this is what we want you to become, they are 'to strive for' objectives, and not meant as harsh discussion points. It followed that Section 7 is meant for clear violations of Discipline policy.
 - It was suggested that the terms voting/non-voting be used instead of active/inactive. Further it was suggested that active be defined in the direction of the required steps to becoming a voting member.
- Pastor Dave asked for thoughts on the topic of yearly membership renewal. It was stated that the positive to this would be 'gentle reminders' while the negative would be 'the yearly mode of administrating it'. It was suggested that it might be done once to get a baseline measurement and clean things up, but then repeated only every 3 or 4 years as maintenance.
 - Pastor Dave mentioned that January's sermon series topic is "I'm a church member".
 - A member recommended that there would be no grandfathering in of members from either campus but suggested that we consider hosting a Covenant Sunday as part of January's sermon series.
 - It was also put forth that as part of the Discipline policy, it be understood that Step 1/One on one discipline become encouraged and recognized as a personal responsibility of all members.
 - The Chair reflected that a key word for the course of action involved is 'due diligence' – that a loving approach and due process is needed. This could be a three-year process. This is a new day; we have a new name; could we consider a new way? This should be a one-time deal as it would be too difficult to monitor and administer otherwise.
 - It was stated that problems could begin with attaching (voting) power to 'membership' –it could or would be perceived as conditions by some. Another stated that, not wanting to be legalistic, this could step into the Discipline (authority) situation.

Membership needs to be clearly defined. We have to be able to say 'enough is enough' when one is in gross violation of boundaries.

- It was suggested that Pastor Dave preach a good/clear message on the membership covenant.
- The question was asked, how much energy should be put in our limitations from the 10-15% (who may be inactive, or push against signing the covenant due to feeling threatened by losing membership status, or by having expectations on them as members)? How much do we let this group define or restrict our moving forward?
 - It was replied that this is not meant to alienate people but to make people aware of membership expectations, and that some will feel alienated regardless. We should be looking at this as a recommitment opportunity to our church.
- The Chair summarized the meeting thus far as stating that it was mainly focused on administrative and pastoral conversations, and not bylaw related.
 - The Board, however, would have further active/inactive member discussions as well as the prospect and process of everyone signing the Covenant.
 - It was encouraged that there could be a big celebration leading up to such an event – a merging of the Covenant and sermon series, and that this would be a future-oriented investment.
 - It was asserted that we should ignore the active/inactive member conversation as it would be covered by the signatures on the Covenant. A list of signing members would then be available for all voting situations. It was stated that we are trying to love people into righteousness.
 - Pastor Dave affirmed that this situation is very complex.
- The Chair asked regarding the Weiler Report, whether there were any questions to that?
 - There were no specific questions but rather a note of encouragement to keep drilling the structure of 'Board, Lead Pastor, and Congregation' as this is very helpful as people are further understanding it.
 - It was also noted that as part of the Weiler Report, with the topic of music, the leaders are now being asked to engage with the people before them; to be aware of group size

and lower the volume for smaller groups; and to include more variety –a hip hop artist is
being considered in the future as part of this variety brought forth.

- Dean closed in prayer