

## **FLC Vision Council Meeting January 7, 2021**

### **Our Present Charter: Understanding our Racism, Power, and Privilege**

**Members Present:** Members Present: David Sproat, Past President; Nancy Rova, Secretary; Mary Dontje, Treasurer; Rick Curnow, Councilor-at-Large; Dianne Loufman, Pastor, Michele Ubl, Ministry Board Chair; Steve Samuelson, President; Carolyn Karsell, Vice President; Kim Schandel, Councilor-at-Large; Rick Curnow, Councilor-at-Large

**Also Present:** Logan McLean Strike

**Members Absent:** Lee Hanson, Councilor-at-Large

**Devotion:** deferred as we have a guest presenter

**Approval of the Agenda:** Agenda approved with motion by Dave, Kim 2<sup>nd</sup> and unanimous approval.

**Approval of the Minutes :** Carolyn motioned to approve, Dave second and unanimous approval.

#### **Ministry Board Report:**

1. Joining in Conversations about Race in Duluth and providing opportunities for this
2. Planning a Meatball Fundraiser as well and hoping to start a Neighborhood Meal program
3. Exploring ideas to partner with another church to support local African and NA organizations
4. Reading "On the Spirit Walk" and exploring how to make the church more welcoming through art, etc.
5. Planning Zoom Forum discussion with Stephan Witherspoon (Duluth NAACP Leader)

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

1. November giving was quite nice and puts us almost at the plan for YTD
2. Expenses are down as expected in the pandemic
3. 3-year comparison is stable
4. TFR—raising awareness

#### **Intern Report:**

--December and Advent was busy

--Thank you to the Video Team

--Working on ways to make worship meaningful

--Able to do a funeral service

--Assisting Evangelism team working on a Land Acknowledgement and how to make our space welcoming

**Pastor's Report:**

--has a potential candidate in her sights for associate

--Annual meeting: Feb. 21

--Ash Wednesday 2/17/21

--Annual Gathering of stories: God's work through us

**Business:**

1. Convection oven is being ordered.
2. Live Stream: Things are going well. We will need to decide if we want to continue beyond Covid. The VC will need to decide if we want to invest to have the possibility to continue.
3. Preparedness: Steve attended the Synod meeting and noted that all churches are feeling similar and most ELCA churches are responding the same to the pandemic.
4. Land Acknowledgement Statement: Dave will get copies of other statements to review. The VC voiced that we want the statement to remain but need to educate and provide more explanation to congregation.

**Visioning:**

1. Meatball Fundraiser: Perhaps on Superbowl Sunday?
2. Monthly Breakfast: Local and Global will discuss in January

Memories of Christmas were shared and enjoyed with laughter.

**Closing Prayer:** Steve closed us in prayer at 8:32 pm

**Next Meeting: February 2, 2021 6-8 pm,** Devotion 2<sup>nd</sup> ½ Chapter 2, page 25

**Special Guest Presenter:** Kevin Skwira-Brown—works with racial justice and white privilege came to speak to us as we strive to carry out our mission, "Understanding our Racism, Power, and Privilege."

Questions to ask: Who are we doing it with, Why are we doing it, What is it going to produce

i.e. book groups are valuable—will they change systems in Duluth? Maybe not but still valuable.

Part of the journey is starting to understand the assumptions that we make about how the world works.

We would like to have conversations without having people feel they are being pointed at.

Language is important—make this accessible to people but don't let white people off the hook. It is an art to talk to people without putting them on the defensive.

White people have a hard time separating their privilege from racism.

We need to know how it exists systemically and then help individuals see how they are a part of it.

Institutional: White churches often have the image of Christ being white.

Help people see the distinctions between individuals and systems.

People interpret all this as “they are bad.”

We all have a cultural lens—we all have different lenses. This can help us think about where are people at in our congregation?

We can use the skills of our lens and others with race, but also across gender, age, gender identity

Competency---example: competent to drive

Fluency—Intercultural, White Privilege, Male Privilege---these are all tributaries

Interpersonal vs Systemic

How do we help individual growth, church community growth, indigenous peoples

Having a Sub Group for Dismantling Racism can build leadership. Different activities attract different people: movie, book groups

To engage people, we need to get past that this is personal

I show up white but that doesn't make me a bad person

We want to build an “Inclusive Community”

Respectfully Submitted:

Nancy L. Rova, VC Secretary