

Strategic Planning Committee
Meeting Notes
May 18, 2021

In Attendance: Pr. Chris, Steve Frei, Sarah Iverson, Ryan Panzer, Sara McCormack, Stephanie Barth, Angie Rieger, Alan Halverson, David Vogt, Tom Golden and Brenda Wilcox. Pr. Chris noted that Tara Osterholz won't be able to join the Committee. If anyone knows someone who predominantly attends the Verona Campus and has school age children that would be a good addition to this committee, please reach out to Pr. Chris.

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. by Chair, Steve Frei. Pr. Chris led the group in a devotion centered on John. He outlined the three testimonies that likely brought us to where we are in our faith life – history of the Christian church, God in scripture and our inward experiences with God. Just as someone helped bring us to where we are today, we all have that responsibility to call others. As we consider Good Shepherd's strategic plan, we prayed that God guides us through the process with the focus on calling others.

Minute Approval: Brenda made a motion and Angie seconded it to accept the minutes from our April meeting. The motion passed.

Standing Meeting Time: Due to the size of our committee, Steve took the action to create a Doodle poll to get input on meeting time and day for our on-going schedule. The goal is to meet once a month.

Introductions: Since we missed a few people at our initial meeting, we did brief introductions again that focused on a positive outcome from the pandemic, why we feel called to serve on this committee and what our experience has been in developing a strategic plan.

Elements of Strategic Planning: Steve started the discussion on what the key elements are to developing a strategic plan. He outlined that the Joshua Group proposal included phases of Learning, Discernment, Planning and Implementing. We discussed the importance of building on what we did and learned through the work with the Joshua Group three years ago. However, we need to discern what has changed during this time and how we need to respond. We discussed the importance of re-engaging the congregation after fourteen months where GS had to be led by the Staff only and ministries were all on-line.

It was noted that we should look out 3 years in establishing a strategic plan. Looking out five or ten years is challenging as it's difficult to know what "church" will look like in 10 years. What gaps or questions are we trying to address or answer with the strategic plan?

Another comment was made that we'd benefit from talking to those involved in Campus Ministry, the Seminary or with the Synod to get their input on influences impacting the Church.

Pr. Chris Follow-Up: One of the actions from the last meeting was to get feedback from previous clients of Auxano and the Joshua Group. Pr. Chris shared the following.

Auxano:

- Church in Plano, TX that worships 515 members weekly
 - They are the Cadillac of consulting, but the cost is well worth it.

- Good Shepherd in Naperville, IL that worships 1,501 members weekly
 - They are starting the process with Auxano. They find them engaging, with a non-denominational focus

The Joshua Group:

- Rainbow Trail's Camp Director
 - They are continually updating their strategic plan.
 - They are re-hiring Kristin to assist with an update.
 - She has stayed engaged long-term with them, even after her contract was complete.
- St. John's in Springfield, IL that worships 450 members weekly
 - Very involved process.
 - As a result of the work with Kristin, they re-wrote their constitution.
- Church in Sacramento, CA that worships 260 members/weekly
 - Believe that consultants add a lot to the strategic planning process. They lift the general expertise of those around the table.

Strategic Planning Consultant Proposals: Steve polled the Committee as to whether we need to hire a consultant or whether we could manage this process internally. After discussion, it was agreed that a consultant would help bring us as a Committee together. It was mentioned that a consultant would bring a defined process and structure.

Pr. Chris mentioned that the current budget includes \$7,375 for a consultant which is 50% of the Joshua Group's proposal cost. He's hopeful that the Foundation will support a grant to cover the remaining cost.

It was agreed that Kristin will be brought to the next Committee meeting to provide an overview of her proposal and process. The Committee will have time to ask questions after her update. If Committee members have any questions on the proposal document, please route them to Steve in advance of the call so that everything can be covered.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer and adjourned at 8:15 p.m.