

Strategic Planning Committee
Meeting Notes
September 13, 2021

In Attendance: Pr. Chris, Steve Frei, Chair, Sarah Iverson, Tom Golden, Sara McCormack, Alan Halverson, David Vogt, Angie Rieger, Jen Holmer, Brenda Wilcox and Kristin Wiersma from the Joshua Group.

Unable to Attend: Stephanie Barth.

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom by Chair, Steve Frei. Steve opened the meeting in prayer and reflected on the importance of prayer to our planning process, asking that we all pray for wisdom, discernment and guidance as we move through this process. He suggested that Monday be a day for us to pray for the Strategic Planning Committee. Lastly, we will be reaching out to the Congregation for support in prayer.

Pr. Chris made a motion and Sara M. seconded it to approve the minutes from our August 23 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve then guided the check-in process where Committee members updated the full group on progress with our listening and exploration process as we gather information to create our strategic plan. The goal is to gather all data elements defined prior to our next meeting and to start capturing common themes we are hearing across our external and internal groups.

- Brenda – completed and circulated to the Committee information on Blackhawk Church, as well as feedback from active Good Shepherd members
- Sarah – completed and circulated to the Committee information provided by members who recently joined Good Shepherd. She's continuing to interview younger members that are no longer active.
- Sara M – continuing to gather information from individuals that don't have established faith lives
- Jen – completed and circulated to the Committee her discussion with John Terrill from the Upper House. She's still working to gain input from the Duke School of Theology.
- Stephanie – continuing to gather input from former members; will also be contacting Hope Lutheran in Des Moines to understand their mission and key takeaways to their growth
- Angie – continuing to gather input from former members
- Tom – census data for Verona and Madison is not yet available; will connect with Adam from the City of Verona to understand growth trends
- Pr. Chris – completed and circulated a discussion with Good Shepherd Sacramento on their strategic planning process. Also will be connecting with the Bishops staff of SE MN.
- Steve – along with Alan Halverson, will be engaging with a professor from LSTC on Wednesday. Ryan Panzer has put together notes on technology and the Church that will be distributed shortly. Steve also circulated after the meeting his discussion with a pastor from a large non-denominational church on the East Coast. Steve's also looking for a volunteer to interview the editor of Relevant.

We discussed other areas where we might want information to inform our strategic plan. Brenda raised a question about a way to better understand the community around the Madison Campus. Pr. Chris commented on the importance of approaching our neighbors in an authentic manner. How do we engage our neighbors? Do we need to adapt to our neighbors? We'll need to discuss this during our process.

In addition, we discussed the importance of building a community – “one” church with “two” locations.

Kristin distributed some examples of strategic plans developed by different organizations. We can review these as we think about the deliverables for Good Shepherd.

The next meeting will be on Monday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m. In addition, we'll be meeting on October 11th for the Shared Leadership retreat where we'll be discussing what we learned and highlighting ways to live out our vision/mission.

The meeting ended at 8:00 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.