

Strategic Planning Committee
Meeting Notes
April 20, 2022

In Attendance: Steve Frei, Chair, Tom Golden, Stephanie Barth, Sara McCormack, Sarah Iverson, Brenda Wilcox and David Vogt. Unable to attend were Pr. Chris, Jen Holmer, Angie Rieger and Kristin Wiersma from the Joshua Group.

The meeting opened at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom by Chair, Steve Frei. Tom led the devotion based on John 14:27 "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." Tom reflected that he's been thinking about peace a lot lately. Our country is very divided, Russia's attack on Ukraine is front and center in the news. There are so many reasons not to be at peace, but John reminds us that we can always find peace in Jesus and in serving others. Trust in Jesus for everlasting peace vs. just surface peace.

Tom made a motion that was seconded by Sara M. to approve the minutes from the March 28th meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve provided a brief overview of the upcoming schedule. A draft of the Strategic Plan will be forwarded to the Executive Committee by May 1st. Steve and Brenda will be meeting with the Executive Committee to review the Plan, receive questions and input on May 16th at 6:30 p.m. The Strategic Planning Committee will then be meeting with the full Board on either June 6th or 13th at 6:30 p.m. Steve is reaching out to everyone on the Committee to determine the best date.

The focus then shifted to a review of the first draft of the comprehensive Strategic Plan crafted by Tom. Tom took the input from the six subgroups and created a Plan with a consistent format, a Formation/Background section, a Leadership Summary section, the Blue Sky work and the Implementation Approach. Tom encouraged everyone to review the full documents for any typo's, etc. Changes should be sent to Tom.

Brenda will provide Tom with two Bible verses to open the Worship and Internal: Belonging sections. Sarah Iverson will include a definition for "radical hospitality" in the External section. This will be based on Benedictine spirituality. We discussed the need to provide some guidance on how we define "basic needs." Sarah Iverson agreed to reach out to Kristin Wiersma to see if the Mission/Vision Task Force defined this as part of their work. If they did not, we'll start out with a definition that includes food, clothing and shelter.

Steve and Tom then discussed the benefits of having a one-page summary of the Strategic Plan. This can be used in communicating to the full Congregation, Committees, etc. Tom took a first pass at creating this document. After the meeting, a copy of it was forwarded to the full Committee. Please review in the next week and provide input to Steve and Tom.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with a closing prayer led by Steve Frei.