

Congregational Chair's Report May 21, 2017

The leadership team consists of Pastor Marv Friesen, elders Tim Derstine, Gloria Horst Rosenberger, Jim Pierce, Bethany Spicher Schonberg, and congregational chair Karen Rath. We do not currently have a congregational chair elect.

At the February 26, 2017, congregational business meeting:

- There was a discussion and procedural vote of 2017-18 funding for the 3rd Way Collective through budget pledges.
- There was a report on the progress of creating a local Ten Thousand Villages store.
- There was a second discussion on the proposed bylaws amendment to change the position of congregational chair elect to assistant congregational chair, which would mean that the assistant chair did not automatically become chair the following year.

The leadership team began the process of gifts discernment through volunteer positions for the 2017-18 church year by asking for volunteers and to nominations. This will be largely completed at the May 21 congregational business meeting.

The leadership team organized and led small groups at the Community Café on May 7 on the how to nurture relationships at UMC, how we envision building relationships in our church in the future, and how the Camp Hebron retreat contributes to relationship-building.

After Marv Friesen announced in March his intention to end his time as pastor UMC in December of 2017, the leadership team began the process of forming a pastoral search committee. This included asking for volunteers in the congregation to be considered for the committee and contacting the Allegheny Conference Minister, Dave Mischler, for assistance. Realizing that a pastoral transition provides an opportunity to consider our vision as a church community and how we might need to change for the future, the leadership team has halted the formation of the search committee for a short time while we consider various matters with the help of our conference minister.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Rath, Congregational Chair