

Living Word Leadership Board Minutes
June 21, 2021

Attendees: Tim Polles (Chair), David Israel, Greg Finfrock, Nancy Cleve, Jen Faust (virtual), Greg Rush, Shannon Hauri, Stephanie Crist, Marty Rector, David Emshoff (absent), Linda Poertner (absent), and Beth Balzraine (Recording Secretary).

Teambuilding

Nancy conducted additional training on The Four Communication Styles regarding lessons learned in communicating with other animal quadrants.

Spiritual Formation

David read from Acts 2:41-47. What did the people in the early church hold as important to the activity of the church? From this Scripture, it is fellowship, sacrament, teaching, miracles, praising God, and evangelism.

Strategic Planning

Mission Development – Who are we and who should we actually be?

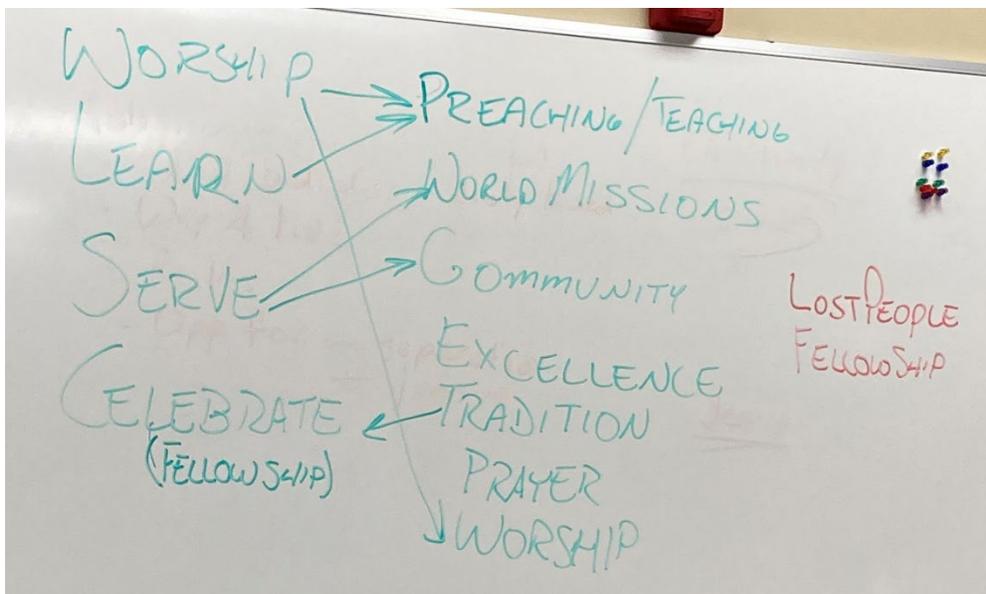
Last month, the board determined that the top core values are:

- Preaching/teaching
- Community
- World missions
- Excellence
- Tradition
- Prayer
- Worship
- Fellowship

Our four pillars, worship, learn, serve, celebrate are included in the above top core values.

Tradition vs. traditionalism: loving something in the past that doesn't help us in the future is traditionalism.

The point of this exercise is to identify the core values.



- Evangelism is missing from our current worship, learn, serve, celebrate. Our mission statement is passive. It states, “We exist to live as a community who follows Jesus, as we worship, learn, serve and celebrate together.”
- Where are we at the moment? We have lost a lot of people. Everyone misses fellowship. The board needs to come back and look at each of the eight above with an explanation.
- Attendance levels have dropped. We are at about 40% attendance level.

Review of Reports

- **Review and Approve May 2021 Minutes**

Marty Rector made a motion to approve the May 2021 minutes. Stephanie Crist seconded the motion. All were in favor.

- **Review of Financial Reports by Exception Only**

Greg Finfrock gave a review of the Budgeted Financial Statement for Period 5 – May.

Comments:

- Leadership Board Financial report, other revenue, \$162400 is the carryover that now shows in the budget.
- Pledges were good this month budgeted vs actual.
- Overall Living Word is in great shape. At the July meeting, the financials will be reviewed in greater detail.

Pastoral Reports

- **Annual Conference Review**

A significant issue that will impact Living Word is that in the state of Missouri, the number of districts will be reduced from nine districts to five districts. This will be a cost savings.

- **Worship /Re-Opening Observations**

Are we positioned for whatever the future church is? We have to stop thinking about worship attendance numbers and think of engagement with those who are attending.

- **Trustee Report**

The church will be closed a few days the first week of August for a new HVAC install. The HVAC install should be considered is a success of the long-ago trustee plan that was developed twelve years ago. This is a \$190,000 HVAC system. This a testimony of the Trustees that Living Word can purchase this system without having to fundraise.

- **Personnel Report**

The Director of Communications position is remains vacant. The position has been highly advertised.

- **Other reports as needed:**

- **Journey**

Greg Finfrock will provide a broader description next month. Journey is a discipleship pathway that will be ready to roll out in September. They are looking for connection coaches.

- **Event Focus**

How do we create events that invites the community? The staff has been focused on developing community events.

- **Upcoming Message Series**

The current sermon series is Summer Inside Out. The series that will follow is iCare. There will be a special offering each week that goes along with the sermon topic. This will tie into the Annual Giving Campaign. A series about death and dying will follow that will tie into the Service of Remembrance.

- **Fall Disciple Launch**

Greg is relaunching a promotion Sunday for the fall for choirs, kids, choirs, and Bible studies.

Comments:

1. Blessing of the Animals: Shannon Hauri suggested that Blessing of the Animals could take place again and is willing to lead this event. She will meet with church staff to organize.
2. Reconciliation Church – Bill VanLue is using this curriculum and will be inviting people to attend the Sunday school class.
3. West Virginia Water Crisis: There is a water crisis in West Virginia that was of interest and needed to be investigated as a potential mission.

Respectfully submitted by Beth Balzaine