

Notes from

PATHWAYS – Strategic Planning (Ad Hoc) report: January 19 presentation and Q and A for Congregation.

Attendees: Barb Stolee, Genevieve Delaney, Bob Loblaw, Jackie Lemke Clow at the head table.

On the floor: T Abraham, M & J Fecho, B & L Fecho, P & C Hnatyshyn, M Jacobsen, D Lavender, P & D Mandryk, R McLeod, C McNab, D & B Olver, T Pope, S Redpath, D Short, J Stolee, C Thronson, B & M Ulrich, R & M Wesolowski

Barb Stolee briefly reviewed the 3 pathways that have been explored since fall 2023 and the congregation. There were paper copies of the report available.

Questions from the floor

- Concern about the state of our finances and the desire for regular (monthly) information including budget for the year, (monthly) giving, year today giving. The treasurer confirmed the bank balance is healthy, and giving is close to the past year maybe 5% lower.
- Question about what we get from the \$1500 for Katja (formerly of UPRC). Members of the congregation are asked to be involved in the research she will do.
- A reminder that our pathway is not about money but a means to determine where God is calling us. We are in liminal space: a time of uncertainty and change.
- A request that there be a walk around to inspect our property and see what needs to be done to repair/improve the property for our use and to encourage renters.
- Question was asked: “Do we need to have a vision for our future and then find a pastor it fit the vision?”; or “Do we need a pastor who will help us determine our vision?”
- Concern that we find ways to engage young families. Reminder of the importance of Campus Ministry in supporting youth.
- Question: What guidance and direction does the Synod provide to congregations seeking new ways, collaborations?
 - Lutheran culture is that congregations are independent and make their own decisions for what they will do. It is left to individual congregations to seek other congregations to work with.
 - The Synod was not designed to support congregations in this way and does not have the financial or human resources. Bishop Trish Schermund is new and my do some work in this direction. Pastor Tim Wray (area dean) is encouraging us to reach out to other congregations.

- Our congregation through the worship team is inviting other congregations to join us in planning some collaborative Lent worship opportunities.
- Question: How do pastors know about vacant congregations? The process is through the synod office which receives the mission profile from congregations, keeps a record of pastors open to receiving calls, and tries to help congregations find a good match.