

Transition Team Update: November 19, 2018

We have designed the transition process to involve the congregation in responding and learning. This is a hard-sell when the congregation has the expectation that the transition team will “do” the transition while the rest of us wait for their report !

This month there were several opportunities for involvement:

—Joan Meister-Bridges with the help of Karen Novess, Denise Ikenberry and myself, has put up a timeline in the narthex as a tool to help the congregation remember its history. Each week people are invited to add some response. On January 6th we will have a time to review the timeline and have people tell stories of what they remember.

—The Vitality Report was presented by the Director of Evangelical Mission, Matt Barnhouse, and the designer of the report, Linda Bobbitt. The report was presented on a Weds night and 99 dinners were served while others arrived after dinner. The time was short, but people did get a chance to discuss the results around their tables and this was an energizing time. I did two follow-up sessions at Adult Forum on Sunday mornings in November. I think this report can be used again as a new council is formed to set some goals.

—The Women’s Retreat proved to be an opportunity to reflect on one key aspect of transition: Holding On and Letting Go. About four or five women came to this retreat who have not been in leadership recently. Several of them came to the Vitality Survey report as well as the Leadership Workshop.

—The team is compiling the things they have learned from listening to the congregation. Now in November they have had a chance to listen to the City of Lakewood. In December they will listen one last time to the congregation in small group meetings after each worship service. This session will be linking the needs of the world and the gifts of Holy Shepherd, to see where God might be calling the congregation.

— Team members have presented reports to the group. Shirley Bradsby did an overview of Lakewood, Paul Thomas did a book report on “Autopsy of a Dead Church” and Denise Ikenberry shared a report on a book on Listening. I have continued to do one to ones with leadership.

—The plan now is to have the report presented soon after the annual meeting. Council will be the first to hear the report and we may decide to have the old and new council be part of the meeting.