

January 12, 2023

Visioning Committee Meeting Minutes

Members present: Pastor Craig, Jay Tomlinson, Patty Rusco, Keith Rue, Rich Floyd

Pastor Craig opened the meeting with mention of attending the Range Clergy Cluster meeting that was focused on ‘visions’ of diversity in different community settings, such as city vs rural, and how different settings often influence how people view diversity. He followed with an opening prayer.

I. *Cards for People on Prayer List*

Jay reported that a selection of 84 cards for this initiative including encouragement, get well, sympathy, prayer, and thinking of you cards have been ordered and the order has shipped. Total cost for all the cards was under \$30.56 including shipping. We should be mailing cards out later this month. The \$300 budget for this initiative was added to the annual outreach budget of the 2023 annual church budget by the finance committee and approved by the Administrative Council and the Annual Church Conference. However, there is no documentation stating that the additional \$300 in the outreach budget is designated for this visioning committee initiative. Jay will include that on the next Ad Council agenda to document that the \$300 increase in the annual outreach budget is specifically earmarked for this initiative.

II. *Small Group Dinner Gatherings*

Rich indicated that he has written a draft solicitation for the *Parish News* inquiring about interest in hosting and/or attending small get-togethers, perhaps a lunch or dinner at someone’s home. This initiative is intentioned to begin returning to our sociable and affable church environment after being fairly isolated during the pandemic. Rich also suggested that the solicitation not go in the *Parish News* until the first week in February to see if the holiday season get togethers had any impact on COVID cases.

III. *Open Church during Holy Week*

In abeyance until February.

IV. *Potential Small Group Study Sessions using the ‘Journey with the Messiah’ images*

After review of the *Journey with the Messiah* materials and participating in a ‘test’ application of how the images might be used in a learning/teaching small group session, the committee strongly felt this initiative would be worthwhile to pursue. Suggestions included: 1) Presenting an image to the group for discussion as to a possible meaning of the image, a scripture reference to the image, the present day message the image suggests with a follow-up of the video narrative of the image; 2) Generating a series of written questions before hand for each image to hand out to the participants in the group to provide a starting point to write answers for discussion, and to have something they could take with them when the session is over; 3) Providing a binder to each participant to include a copy of the image and their discussion points for home reference; 4) To share the source of *Journey with the Messiah* so each participant would have the necessary contacts to order the disk, book, photos and/or posters should they wish to do so. The timing of this initiative was discussed. It was felt this initiative should not begin until after the current planned 13 week women’s *A Journey into Easter* study has been completed. It was also thought that this initiative will require considerable preparation and planning requiring a later target start date anyway. Patty and Jay volunteered to begin the preparation work. Others may join in as they become familiar with the *Journey with the Messiah* materials. Rich and Keith each took a disk to view at their homes.

Next Meeting Date & Time – The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.