

2/28/2022 Governance MEMO to Board Re: Open Questions & Processes

To: Board of Trustees

From: Governance Committee

Re: Open Questions and Process

Date: 2-28-22

1. In light of the conversation among Board members at your February 17 meeting, the Governance Committee recommends the Board consider adopting one or two of the following Open Questions for communication to the congregation:

- What do you need from your church in the next 12 months?
- How do we remain relevant?
- What should religious education look like for children and adults?

We recommend that at the same meeting the Board adopt a process for communicating with the congregation and seeking input.

2. Recommended Process

- By March 11, Board will prepare and communicate a message to all members about the Open Question/Annual Vision of Ministry approach to include that all church members are partners and that their input is vital to the effort. Communications would be via:
 - E-mail to all members (Postal to those we know don't use electronic communication);
 - Every Intercom for at least three consecutive weeks;
 - On the Church FB page;

- By direct communication from the various church leaders and staff to their constituents (e.g., Karen to all choir & bell-ringers, Devan to all in RE, Sage Book, Bent Needles, Kathryn to Young Adults group, Al to Humanists, etc.).

Message text should also include quotes from Rev. Amy and from Greg as Board Pres. about the importance of the effort and the dates and times for all meetings set by that point with a sign-up link.

- Beginning by late March, meetings commence, as follows:
 1. During consecutive Sunday Forum times, members meet in person and via Zoom.
 2. A meeting on a Wednesday night while RE is ongoing, (providing access for parents of RE students on the premises).
 3. Two additional virtual meetings for those who missed the Forum meetings.
 4. Any affiliate group that wishes to hold a special meeting for its members are encouraged to do so, e.g., meetings could be scheduled for YRUU and a separate meeting for young adults group.

All meetings to include the ability to break out into smaller groups depending on numbers in attendance. Each meeting and each breakout to include a facilitator and note-taker. AMOS members with experience leading small group meetings could be asked if they'd be willing to lead the small group meetings. Several have already expressed they'd be happy to do so.

- Given that some members may not be able to attend a meeting, or would prefer giving their input in writing, a survey will be sent to all members via e-mail with link, with the option for our non-electronic folks of requesting a mailing with a paper copy to fill out and return. It may make more sense to send it after the small group meetings as it would be preferable for folks to meet in groups with others, if at all possible.
- June – At the church Annual Meeting a Board member will summarize the input provided by the Congregation on the Open Question(s), noting that the Board will take this input into consideration in developing its initial Annual Vision of Ministry at its summer retreat.