

Council Update with Transition Update

June 2, 2016

River Terrace Church Council met June 1 with the new members you elected and our retiring members. Over dinner, church staff briefed us on their responsibilities and how they interact with Council. Elder Susan Medendorp led us in a devotional from Ephesians 4, including these words: *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.* The passage goes on to remind leaders that people have different gifts *so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.*

Elders and deacons met separately for elections and committee assignments. Elders elected Jim Nicholas as Chair and John Kaufmann as Clerk (this means they are also Chair and Clerk of Council). Deacons elected Robert Geers as Chair, Jeff Triezenberg as Treasurer, David Harkema as Assistant Treasurer, and Erika Bridge as Secretary.

Tim Blamer, retiring deacon and Chair of the Transition Team, reported on the Transition Team's progress. Team members continue to meet with small groups to discuss the transition and hear from congregants regarding people's concerns and values for the church. Other opportunities to hear from the congregation are being explored. As noted in the June River's Edge, the Council is asking the congregation to gather for corporate prayer before worship services beginning June 19.

The Transition Team met with a potential interim pastor on May 31. After that meeting, the team agreed to recommend that Council follow-up by meeting with him. Council voted to do so, and the meeting is planned for June 23.

We ended our meeting by hearing from retiring elders, Bob Young and Laura VanDerKolk, and retiring deacons Rebecca Day and Tim Blamer. Their reflections on the last three years and words of encouragement and love were a wonderful send off for those of us serving this coming year.

Please pray for the Transition Team, Council, Pastor Ken, and Staff as we move forward in our respective roles. Please pray for discernment and wisdom as we meet with the potential interim pastor on June 23. Please pray for a healthy response to our call for corporate prayer.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your paths. Proverbs 3: 5-6