

ECC of Lafayette, Indiana - Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

AGENDA/Minutes

Our mission is to build a community of people who worship God, follow Jesus and pursue the purposes of God in the world.

1. Prayer– Ron

- Council met for prayer prior to the forum.

2. Women in Ministry Open Forum

- 30 individuals (in addition to council) were present for the forum. Discussion centered around the following themes:

1. Access to the Covenant affirmations and resolutions

.1.1. These are on the Covenant website

2. How was the decision made to pursue a female pastor, and is the covenant pushing us toward a female?

.2.1. No, there was no pressure from the denomination to make this recommendation. It was described that there were actually several lay leaders within the women's ministry group that were discussing the needs of women's ministries that came to the conclusion that a female pastor might be a very good solution. The rationale and the story of how the Spirit moved within that group, was presented to the council. The council considered the proposal in light of their ongoing discussion related to balancing the ministry needs. After discussion, the council was in complete agreement, and moved forward to propose the current direction of a female discipleship pastor.

3. How about the survey filled out by the congregation several years ago, wasn't it clear that the church was not interested in a female pastor?

.3.1. That survey was designed specifically to gather feedback for what was at that time called the senior pastor position. While the survey did not go on to ask follow-up questions regarding other pastor positions, the belief of the council is that the survey primarily reflected the attitude for the senior pastor position. While there are several members that have concerns with a female in any pastor position, it is believed that the majority of members favor the Covenant position on women in

ministry and are supportive of a female pastor in this team pastor role. The driver for this open forum was to listen to concerns, and ascertain just how many members had significant concerns.

4. Shouldn't we have polled the congregation before making this decision?

.4.1. It was believed by the council that there would be widespread support for this direction. The recommendation was made by the council at the January congregational meeting to form a Discipleship Pastor search committee focusing on a female pastor. There was discussion regarding the direction, but no motion was made to change the focus. Opportunity was given for continued discussion at the special congregational meeting to elect the search committee. Again no motions were made to change the focus of the search. The council has had some, but actually very little feedback regarding the search for a female pastor. Any member at any congregational meeting can bring a motion to change the direction.

5. Discussion regarding the job description

.5.1. The job description was read by a member of the search committee. Some individuals thought it was vague while others thought it included too large a scope. The primary focus of the role will be to focus on women's ministries and discipleship within the body. Other specific tasks will be balanced among the pastoral staff based on interest and giftedness. The vagueness in these areas was intentional.

6. What is the authority structure of the pastoral staff?

.6.1. The pastoral staff reports to Stacey, Stacey reports to the council, the council reports to the congregation.

7. There was a strong plea from one of the members that in spite of differences of opinion on this and other topics, that we stay unified, and not let our differences lead to unrest or splits.

3. Debrief of Women in Ministry discussion

- Recap of discussion of the open forum.

4. Approval of Agenda and April meeting minutes

- Approved the agenda and the meeting minutes.

5. Congregational meeting agenda – Ron

- No discussion

6. CFO/Church Administrator report – Kurt Kincanon

- In the interest of time, Pastor Kurt asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the financial reports that had been provided ahead of time. There were not.

Budget

- Discussion of proposed budget, and final adjustments.

7. Lead Pastor Report – Stacey Littlefield

Personnel

- Continuing in the ministerial coaching program.

Member care

- Discussed several topics related issues members are facing.

8. Med Range

Worship/Music Director/Pastor search – Greg

- Done!

Discipleship Pastor search committee – Shirley

- Shirley and Pastor Stacey indicated that good progress is being made.

9. Spring decisions – Ron

3 services – evaluate in summer depending on attendance

- No discussion on this topic.

10:9:30 Adjourn

Next Meeting: Tues June 9, 2009, 7:00 pm

Next Congregational meeting: Sun, May 17, 2009, 1:45 pm after the monthly fellowship meal

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey L Speakman