Task Force on Church Planting and Congregational Redevelopment
September 18, 2019
Zoom Meeting

Present: The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner, Ms. Caroline McCall, The Rev. Daniel Velez-Rivera, Canon Katie Forsyth, The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne, The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers, Mrs. Natalie Thomas, The Rev. Eric Metoyer, The Rev. Michael Sells, The Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey, The Very Rev. Amy McCreath, Mr. Jason Evans

Absent: The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers, The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, The Rt. Rev. Allen Shin, The Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde, Dr. Gandhy Lopez, The Rt. Rev. Gretchen Rehberg, The Rt. Rev. Alan Scarfe, The Rev. Canon Ada Wong Nagata, The Rev. Tom Brackett, The Rev. Canon Dan Morrow

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.
She invited us to begin by sharing about what we felt proud of in our work and/or lives and Mr. Jason Evans opened the group in prayer.

detailed notes were not taken during the check-in

The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers offered the Task Force an update on the work of Church Planting

Assessment Retreats
She began by sharing that next month there will be an assessment retreat in Cincinnati - it seems like it will be full. We will be hosting another retreat in LA in January. Katie expressed a sense of excitement that there will be a Latinx church planter leading part of this retreat in LA. A request was made to recommend a Gallup/Clifton Strengthsfinder to help facilitate the retreat. We also have retreats planned for May, August, and October of 2020. The retreats were scheduled around the grants release schedule.

Genesis Gathering
Katie reviewed the outline of the Genesis Gathering - she also committed to sharing agenda for the Genesis Gathering with the entire Task Force. At the Genesis Gathering there will be about five plenary sessions that will gather Diocesan Leaders and planters - the planters present will cover a wide span of types of church plants. The conversations will be a space for relationship building and also coaching. A request was made for task force members to attend if they are possible - to be clear it's a pay as you can, we value task force members attendance but keep in mind that the money spent towards us does not go to planters

directly. Katie hopes that the gathering will be a mix of blessing the work that's happening and strengthening those who are doing the work. A special request was made for members of the Task Force to lead worship sessions at the gathering.

Katie also shared that she has had many conversations about how we harvest the learning that we have seen in the past few years. She is working on this project with Gray Lesesne and Jason Evans. The questions people are reflecting on are:

- What is our success rate in terms of sustainability and ministries that leave a legacy
- How are we defining sustainability
- How do we think that we are doing .

Covenant Conversations

She then gave an update on how we would facilitate partnership covenants (something we discussed in August in Baltimore) between Diocesan staff, the church planters, and someone from the subcommittee of church plants/grants on the task force. These partnership covenants will ensure that everyone is on the same page in regards to vision, expectations, and what it means to receive a grant. Once the Executive Council meets in October and approves the grants, we will email recipients with links to sign-up for Genesis, the amount people have been granted. and a link to sign-up for a covenant conversations. These conversations will happen before the grant is disbursed.

Janet Waggoner celebrated this work and wanted to know if we have a clear list of what sorts of things we discuss during those conversations.

- Katie shared that we do not have a list of questions but we do have a draft of the conversation that will be shared with Janet and the grants subcommittee before it goes out to grant recipients.

Approval of Grants

Caroline McCall asked if we could review the grant decisions as a Task Force.

Katie Forsyth announced that the reason the decisions have not been circulated is because there are still a few grant applications that have been left undecided. That said, the subcommittee has decided to grant 620,000 USD.

Gray Lesesne then suggested that we take a vote on the grant distribution.

Katie Forsyth then shared the Grants Subcommittee's spreadsheet with the Task Force and we reviewed it during the call.

Caroline McCall then shared that she feels confident in the distribution by looking at the grants spreadsheet. However, she requested that before the final vote on the undecided grant applicants goes out that the Task Force has the opportunity to review the overall list.

- Katie Forsyth committed to sharing the final list with the Task Force.

Betsy Ivey agreed that she feels confident in the work of the subcommittee and that she was so pleased to see all the ministries going on in the church. Daniel Valez-Rivera agreed and said it was inspiring to be on the committee.

Eric Metoyner and Jason Evans agreed that they were ready to vote.

Natalie Thomas asked for a short summary of the discussion of the subcommittee that highlights some of the findings from the team. She feels confident in moving forward with decisions of the church planting church subcommittee.

Janet Waggoner reminded us that this is confidential information and we will receive a summary of the presentation before it gets sent to Local Ministries.

Caroline McCall asked that before voting we clarify what the expectations are for people who have conflicts of interest with applicants before voting.

Katie Nakumara Rogers shared that while we should recuse ourselves from votes with whom we are working but we do not need to recuse ourselves from work with the congregations that have applied for the grants.

People recused themselves from approving grants with which they have a conflict of interest.

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner motioned that, considering the earlier vote recommendations, we might vote on the grant distribution as recommended by the grant subcommittee.

- Amy McCreath asked about the four remaining proposals that have yet to approved - are we voting on these applicants as well?
- Katie Forsyth shared that we are not voting on the "paused" or the "maybes"

The motion passed unanimously.

Update on the Officer for Church Planting

Janet Waggoner then offered an update for the Staff Officer of Church Planting. She shared that the search committee is narrowing down the applicants and deciding with whom they want to have more detailed conversations. The search committee is going to meet the following week to decide next steps.

- Gray Lesesne asked for a list of members who are on the search committee.
- Janet Waggoner said she would email it the list to people.

- Natalie Thomas asked if this meant that we were on second round interviews
- Janet Waggoner shared that they had followed a different process - they asked candidates to supplement their applications so that people offered a more "equal" amount of information, ie: cover letters. Now that they had received all the requested information, they are reviewing applicants and inviting people to interview.

The Rev. Canon Besty Ivey gave the Task Force and update on Congregational Redevelopment.

Update on Work on Structure
The subcommittee has met to put together a plan for what needs to be done to gather the three communities that we talked about in Maryland - wisdom community, a community of practice, and the wider church audience. We began to put together a description using the notes from the last meeting and we need the larger Task Force to review it. This is the wording that will inform the information on the applications and invitation to join the Community of Practice.

Betsy then shared that during discussion it became clear that the name Missio isn't going to have the recognition value that we need for the wider church. She stressed that the new name felt especially important right now. They are moving through the rest of the work quickly so that we can launch the initiative by the end of November.

Janet Waggoner seconded this, we need to have a decision about a name for the initiative by the end of the month for the purpose of communicating about the initiative.

One other development is that we have talked about how to connect with the wider church. We will have a weekly chat at 3 p.m. Eastern that the wider church can join. One of the roles o f the Community of Practice will be to join that conversation.

Next Steps for Subcommittee on Redevelopment
Decision to be made: a new name for the initiative, the size of the team that participates in the parish, and the amount of interaction that we will expect for the church plants with the wisdom community.

Betsy Ivey then made a request that we would all read through the descriptions and work that's been done - she will create a google doc where we can give feedback. The link to the google doc will be shared through extranet.

Gray Lesesne asked for the subcommittee to share the name options that came up in our basecamp discussions.

Hiring a Consultant
The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner shared that we have a consultant suggestion, his name is Steve Mathews and, in transparency we have worked with him in the past. We want to hire him at a rate of $50 per hour with a maximum of $50,000 in any given year.

- Daniel Valez Rivera supported the amount and motioned for a vote.
- Amy McCreath made an endorsement to the choice of Steve Matthews
- Natalie Thomas also endorsed Steve, while at the same time, requesting that we be mindful of what happens when we make quick decisions on hiring in regards to expanding the people with whom we work.

The vote passed unanimously in the Task Force

Janet Waggoner committed to interfacing with Tom about this decision and seeing how Steve will interface with the Task Force

Subcommittee Reports:
The Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne updated the Task Force on the work of the Communications Subcommittee

The communications subcommittee is working on the following in relationship to church Planting: the release of grantee announcements, public relations to increase the social media posts for Genesis, and getting videographers to the Genesis to make the most of having all the planters in one place.

In regards to the redevelopment side, we are waiting on the name of this program so that we can go forward.

In regards to a end-of-report that we need to set-up a meeting with the General Convention Office people about what we need for bluebook reports.

- Daniel Valez Rivera asked if we could use videos in blue book reports.
- Gray Lesesne shared that he liked that idea and we would look into it.

Canon Katie Forsyth updated the Task Force on the work of the Grants Subcommittee

We have been focused on church planting grants and we need to move forward in terms of communicating the grants and the covenant letters.

The meeting closed with a prayer from the Rev. Dr. Gray Lesesne

Decisions

- Motion to approve funding for Steve Matthews
- Motion to approve 620,000 of funding for grants of the subcommittee

Next Steps

All:

- Reminder: Next meeting – Wednesday, October 16th (3rd Wednesday of the month) (3:00 pm EST / 2:00 pm CST / 1:00 pm MTN / 12:00 noon PST)
- Spring 2020 – Wednesday, April 22 – Friday, April 24 - Plant & Grant Subcommittee – Tuesday, April 21 – Wednesday, April 22 - this will be in St. Louis
- Send Katie Nakamura Rengers names of people who are trained in the Gallup/Clifton Strengthsfinder
- Tell Katie Nakamura Rengers if you want to come to the genesis gathering and how much money you need to travel
- Tell Katie Nakamura Rengers if you are able to lead a worship session at the Genesis Gathering.
- Review the job description that Caroline is sharing on basecamp

Canon Katie Forsyth

- Share the spreadsheet with finalized grant distribution

The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers

- Share the outline for the covenant conversations with Janet Waggoner and Katie Forsyth before setting up the covenant conversation
- Share the Genesis Gathering schedule with the Task Force

The Rev. Canon Janet Waggoner

- Share the list of the search committee with the Task Force

The Rev. Canon Betsy Ivey

- Share a copy of the text for redevelopment via google doc so that people can add their comments

Prayers

- This is Hispanic Heritage Month, please raise your blessings and prayers for those planting or have planted Latino Ministries and for those who support the ministries!