

Leadership Board, September 23, 2025

Attendees: Wynn Richardson, Jen Anderson, Brian Johnson, Raquel Maas, Suzanne Sancilio, Amy McQuaid-Swanson, Alan O'Donnell, Bob Milligan, Jerry Matchett. Online: Pat Torgimson, Ross Droogsma. Thelma Boeder, recorder.

Attending for Respectful Conversations discussion: Jerad Morey

Call to order (7:01 p.m.): Wynn Richardson, chair.

Pastor Jen led us in contemplative prayer, each writing concerns, worries, hopes on a slip of paper.

Consent Calendar items: All approved by consensus.

1. Team reports (Compassion & Justice, Facilities, Finance, Staff)
2. August 19, 2025, meeting minutes

Agenda: Accepted with one addition, Faithwalk adjustments.

Respectful Conversations:

1. Jerad Morey, director of strategic relationships at the Minnesota Council of Churches outlined the Respectful Conversations process: gathering for a meal, followed by a short video, then breaking into small groups with a trained facilitator leading each group discussion, the whole event totaling two and a half hours. Facilitator volunteers will be trained earlier, Leadership Board members and possibly other volunteers as needed. Discussion groups work well with 4-5 persons plus the facilitator though the groups can work with up to 7-8. Price for one Respectful Conversation, including facilitator training is \$1,300, a second would add about \$700 or \$800 (facilitators would already be trained).
2. The board discussed what we want to accomplish in these conversations and whether to hold one or two, based on the goal affirmed through the congregational vote last spring to work toward consolidating in one location, location to be determined. Schedule two Respectful Conversations with the first working through feelings lingering from our merger in 2016 and the second addressing future plans? Two sessions might be too many – would folks attend a second time. Best to encourage and focus on the future? Wynn proposed A Respectful Conversation about consolidating to one location with two parts, past issues and addressing the future. Jerad said default questions the process uses would work with this plan, beginning with examining the heart of the issue, then moving to life experiences and hopes for the future.
3. Would it be best to hold the Conversation in a neutral location, other than one of our two facilities? Maybe, but Jen pointed out that we plan to use Roseville on Wednesday, November 5, with a team ready to serve a meal. Since Wednesday

evening group activities with meals being held at Roseville have become our regular practice, the board agreed that we should not alter that plan. We set the dates, October 28, 6-8:30 p.m. for facilitator training and November 5, 6-8:30 p.m., for the Respectful Conversation. Raquel asked if youth may join the conversation. From Jerad, yes, if older, 11th or 12th graders.

Facilities:

1. Ross asked if we need to find funds for making roof repairs at St. Anthony Park. Bob said we should use Capital Reserves once we know how much is needed after the insurance claim is finalized. In response to Raquel's question, If we accept money from insurance, we will have to fix the roof.

Pastor's Report:

1. Jen reviewed Faithwalk changes at both campuses, both of which rely primarily on a faithful core of volunteers. At Roseville, where numbers of children are low (sometimes 0 on a Sunday), Lauren has moved Faithwalk to the Lounge, where she can lead the session, preferably with one volunteer when available. SAP has more volunteers but without a lead person. Logistics and location there suggest conducting Faithwalk as a single class rather than two, at least for a time. Overall, we need to encourage more volunteers.

Staff-Parish Relations Team Executive Session (8:24 p.m.-8:55 p.m.)

Compassion and Justice:

1. Raquel asked for approval to make sandwiches for Dignity Center with donated ingredients and then frozen, as a fifth Sunday service project. Several felt that was not a good idea because of health issues. Denied.
2. Raquel noted that we had voted months ago to shift the ASL budget needs to Worship. It will be done.
3. Compassion and Justice meets next on October 7 and would appreciate feedback on their budget draft from board members before then.

Finance:

1. Bob said he is working to resolve a bank issue.
2. The Foundation will give us \$40,000 toward our insurance needs, less than the \$90,000 requested. It remains to be seen how that will affect our end-of-year financial status.

Our Future Together:

1. Bob said nine Design Team sessions are scheduled, seven to be held within the next two weeks, beginning tomorrow.

Jerry closed with prayer.

Adjourned (9:12 p.m.)

Thelma Boeder, recording secretary