

THE MESSENGER

Red Oak First United Methodist Church

www.redoakfumc.org

February 2020



Recent changes to two programs we support to help Red Oak schools are changing. The schools are no longer collecting Campbell's Soup Labels, so we will not be collecting them at church. The Box Tops for Education is going digital, the days of cutting the box tops off the packing are ending. The last day to turn box tops in at church will be **Sunday, April 26th**. The box tops will go to Inman school in early May, so they can redeem them.

The Administrative Board meetings are held the second Thursday of the month, at 6:00pm. Minutes from these meetings are always available in the office.



MEETING MINUTES



Core Values are the preferences or choices churches make in their life together. The way we behave reflects what we truly value as a congregation. Values are not an idea, nor a program, nor a goal. Core values are reflected in the consistent choices we make in our Church on a daily, monthly and yearly basis.

Our Next Step in the HCI—Healthy Church Initiative will be an All-Church Workshop to discover what is most important to Red Oak First as a church community—our **Core Values**.

Save-The-Date. **Sunday, February 2nd** we will have potluck lunch together in the Fellowship Hall (11:30-12:30p) followed by the Core Values Workshop (1:00-3:00p). Come and help build our future.



OUR NEXT STEP in our journey in the Healthy Church Initiative is to identify what our “core values” are as a church. Those things that are so important to us that they should not be forgotten and are used as the compass to help guide us.

Rev. Melissa Drake, our HCI Coach, has offered the following for our consideration as we prepare to enter an all-church core values workshop on February 2, 2020:

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But the reality is that most churches never take the time to clearly define what their core values are. When Core Values are “muddy” or “inarticulate” here's what often happens to a church:

Ambiguous Core Values Results

- Poor planning
- Low morale
- Broken relationships
- Decision-making is timid and very slow
- Preoccupation with trivial matters
- Constant squabbling over matters of personal taste
- Decisions constantly deferred
- So-called “traditions” keep churches from moving forward

Clear, Articulated Core Values

- Higher morale
- Ability to plan the future
- Quick resolution of disputes
- Healthier relationships
- Focus on “Big Picture” items
- Rapid Decision-making
- Easier entrance for new members

Sunday, February 2nd make plans to participate in the all-church workshop. After the 10:30 service we will fellowship together with a potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall and the spend about 2 hours on the Core Values Workshop—led by Rev. Melissa Drake.

	Attendance			
	2017	2018	2019*	Change
January	374	322	379	18%
February	344	418	233	-44%
March	409	367	428	17%
April	465	517	459	-11%
May	356	389	331	-15%
June	337	333	481	44%
July	414	464	364	-22%
August	319	286	377	32%
September	423	403	464	15%
October	410	427	386	-10%
November	374	395	377	-5%
December	480	566	556	-2%
	4,705	4,887	4,835	-1%
* includes Wednesday evening Prayer Services				

Finance			
Contributions*			
Contributions*	2018	2019	Difference
December	\$ 16,535	\$ 16,726	\$191
Year-to-Date	\$ 164,620	\$ 157,761	-\$6,859
* includes: Individual & Family Offerings			
Income vs. Expenses			
2019	Income*	Expenses	Difference
December	\$ 17,175	\$ 14,465	\$2,710
Year-to-Date	\$ 179,609	\$ 195,777	-\$16,168
* includes incomes received from all sources during 2019			

Note: Deficits were covered by withdrawals from cash reserves such as the Emergency Fund and Designated Funds' (i.e., Youth, Capital, Memorial, ESL, Missions, and Outreach) gifts & grants received before 2019 and held for specific uses.

February Birthdays

02/02 Lena Torbett	02/05 Jane Waltz	02/13 Raymond Olsen
02/02 Jordan Vrba	02/06 Stan Smith	02/15 Vayda Fisher
02/03 Joan Perkins	02/07 Teresa Peterson	02/20 Trinity LaMar
02/03 Adrian Guerra	02/10 Jerry Stanley	02/23 Nicole Fisher
02/05 Mary Marshall	02/12 Dorothy Bozwell	02/23 Donna Walford
		02/28 Callie Yeager

From the Pastor

To quote UM bishop Thomas Bickerton of New York, “The contentious 2019 special General Conference in St. Louis underscored intensifying divisions (within the denomination) and the need for amicable separation. It became clear that the line in the sand had turned into a canyon. The impasse is such that we have come to the realization that we just can’t stay that way any longer.”

Since the Special General Conference last February, things have only gotten “worse” within the denomination in regard to our connection. Recognizing the deep divide, representatives from all points of view—liberal, moderate/ “Centrists,” and Traditionalists—have been meeting to determine a plan to move forward. On January 3rd this group announced a plan to be proposed to General Conference in May called “Protocol of Reconciliation & Grace Through Separation.” In political terms, there has been a huge “ground swell” of support by all sides. Indeed, it is being discussed as if it has already been enacted by General Conference. In other words, it is expected to be passed and implemented immediately. Here are the key points:

- The General (UM) Church would provide \$25 million for the establishment of a “Traditional Methodist denomination.”
- Annual Conferences and local churches would vote to determine if they will affiliate with the current United Methodist Church or the new, Traditional Methodist denomination.
- Local churches that choose to affiliate with the new, Traditional Methodist denomination would leave the current General UM Church with all assets and liabilities.
- Following the 2020 General Conference, set for May 5-15 in Minneapolis, there would be a special General Conference for the remaining denomination to remove from church *Discipline*, the current prohibitions against LGBTQ persons, and to repeal the Traditional Plan (passed by GC 2019).

While there are other important points to the “Protocol,” mainly, they address issues related to other areas of the global church. Our resident bishop in Iowa—Laurie Haller—has endorsed this proposal. In fact, she has called for a special annual conference in October of this year to formally vote on whether the Iowa Annual Conference stays or goes with the new “Traditional Methodist denomination.”

As I have tried to help you understand over the past 3 years, the division within the UMC goes much deeper than the current “hot button” issue regarding human sexuality. That being said, the General Church is forcing local churches to make a decision. Red Oak First **WILL** have to decide where it stands in relation to its long, Methodist heritage. Your Ad Board will be continuing discussion on this issue as it re-convenes for 2020. I urge every member of Red Oak First to reach out to a board member with opinions and questions as the future of the church is now in your hands.