

EUCC Governing Body Retreat Minutes – March 6, 2010 – Convened in 212 Building

Present: Katy Hawker, Laura Bardelmeier, Laura Evans, Wynn Miller, Paul Mack, Lori Winter, Lil Lau, Patty Pelikan **Not present:** Ken Ulmer, Debbie Gregg, Ruth Panhorst

8:15 Laura B. convened, read from *Living Buddha, Living Christ*, by Hon. Thich Nhat Hanh; silent reflection

8:20 Invited sharing of insights from January Annual Meeting. Comments included: The value of open communication; Good to wrap worship service around the meeting; Good to provide opportunities for comments from the floor; For future, how can the congregational membership be involved in planning the annual meeting? Though the GB communicates a lot, it is told it doesn't; Motion from the floor felt disrespectful to the GB process; Motions need to be in front of members ahead of time; Suggest four meetings a year, two scripted [January and July] and two interim, using "Appreciative Inquiry" technique; Question of trust not yet here for GB?

Katy shared documents related to purchase of the 212 building, from 1982 and 1991

9:00 Laura led us into consideration of conducting a SWOT analysis by reviewing the planning process: Vision development, Creating mission, with long-term goals and strategies, Implementation and finally Evaluation (re-visiting vision, mission, goals and strategies and doing a SWOT analysis) [See two attached pages]

9:00 to 10:45 Members' brainstorming of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

10:45 to 11:00 Discussion of how to proceed with SWOT lists. Katy suggested that coming to closure will help move ahead conversations with 1st Congregational and other churches

11:00 Examination of 2006 SWOT analysis for comparison: what has shifted? It appears that the Threats category shows the biggest change since 2006. Continued discussion of how to proceed with SWOT lists.

11:35 Discussion of church closings, and a prevailing hospice attitude ("Let's hold hands while we die")
Q: How can we reach out to the community? A: Define Long-term goals and lay them out for 3-5 years

11:50 Q: What do the [SWOT] word lists mean for our vision and mission? Has our vision become our mission? A: Vision means to be a leader in defining, modeling the 21st century church/faith community.
Q: How to engage in conversation with the congregation in a meaningful way? A: focus on us not on the larger community [though we exist in the larger community]

TASK: Each GB member review the SWOT lists we produced today [and compare with 2006 long-term goals] and prioritize your top four (4) in each category. What are the implications of the items in the lists?

Send your lists to Laura and Paul M.

12:00 Katy led the GB in a Blessing of the 212 Building.
Adjourned at 12:10

Respectfully submitted, Paul Mack, Secretariat