

## Governing Council Retreat Summary – February 3, 2018

Your new Governing Council met at the Lonesome Dove Ranch and spent most of the day on Saturday. Present were Nick Cecava, Carolyn Scheible, April Shaffer, Robin Orchard, Sonya Durrwachter, Dennis DeReese, Brian Genz, Mick Machen, Judy Macek, Chad Burkhart, Geno Sharpe, Pastor Jason Fry and Pastor Rebekah Rochte.

After a morning devotional, the group spent the first part of the morning sharing personal faith journeys. Then, Pastor Jason led a training session on the Governing Council model, how it functions and how it can provide good focus on mission, boundaries, and accountability. After a delicious lunch prepared by Jeff Stracener, the Council reviewed the 2017 Financial Reports, which were very positive. Pastor Jason gave a briefing on staff summaries of job descriptions, salaries and a supervision chart.

Then the Council began the work of developing a set of Guiding Principles, focusing on Mission, Boundaries, and Accountability. The working template was provided by Trinity UMC in Columbus, OH, a congregation that has moved to this identical governance model and has done excellent work in developing a Guiding Principles document. Some minor revisions will be made and the final draft will be considered for adoption in the next meeting of the Governing Council to be held on May 21, 2018.

Pastor Jason then made a presentation on Mission, Vision, and Goals. The working Mission Statement being considered is the denominational mission statement: *Grace United Methodist Church exists for this purpose: to “Make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World.”* The working Vision Statement being considered is:

*We will pursue this mission strategically by envisioning Grace UMC as “A Place to Connect”:* **Connect with God** through passionate, transformative worship, and intentional discipleship efforts that help people grow in their faith journey as followers of Jesus Christ. **Connect with each other** not only through worship, but also through small group communities in which people support and help each other as they encounter Christ, grow as disciples, and discover how God is calling them to serve and share their faith with others. **Connect with the world** through compassionate service and faith-sharing ministries in our surrounding community and the farthest reaches of the world.

The Council then reviewed and assessed the progress on goals for 2017 and discussed possible goals for 2018, flowing from this Vision Statement:

- Connect with God** (through prayer ministry, develop intentional discipleship pathway)
- Connect with each other** (increase number of small groups, percentage of worshipers in small groups, and percentage of worshipers involved in hands-on ministry)
- Connect with the world** (percentage of worshipers involved in missions and ministries).

At the May meeting, these goals will be further defined with benchmarks to provide for measuring the progress toward meeting these goals. At the May meeting, the Guiding Principles, including mission, vision, and goals will be finalized. The following meeting will be Saturday, August 11, 2018. After closing worship and communion, the Governing Council adjourned.