

Program Ministry Report  
Aug 23, 2016

Pastor James Aalgaard  
Goals

“Alignment” – I will be participating in the meetings Jim LaDoux will be facilitating during his site visit. I am continuing with BeFriender Ministry administration – I see this pastoral care ministry as a way to deepen our congregation’s care for one another and to strengthen the pastoral care I do as pastor.

“Lifelong Learning” – Some work has been done putting the formation calendar together for this year. Faith Formation schedule soon to be filled at least into January. Formation classes begin next month. Would like to develop a better plan for the “big picture” conversation with Beth and/or Jameson (other leaders too) and see what’s possible in terms of energy level. Deeper Life 2017 is part of this overall goal, and it’s good to have a few lay people to help with planning around that.

“Help GLC and myself bridge cultural gaps” While the fall schedule gets started I think this will have to wait (at least in terms of my direct involvement). I’m thinking about topics like Latino ministry and the special needs community.

Beth Smallbeck

Redefine the confirmation program/curriculum - The decision has been made to make confirmation a two year program (7&8 grade). Throughout the year I will be working with Ian and Pastor James to refine the “Biblical” year to fit into a 9 month curriculum.

lifelong learning - I have been (unsuccessfully) researching curriculum for toddlers (birth to 3). I will continue to work on this. I would like to research the possibility of working towards a more collaborative learning, birth to death, than individual classes. I am excited to fill our master education calendar with learning opportunities for all ages.

I plan to be more intentional about time off and general health. Scheduling vacation time and continuing my goal of 10,000 steps a day.

Co-lead a book study with Chantel Ham, inviting women of St. Joes and Grace to participate. Reading *one hope Re-Membering the Body of Christ*

Jameson Varpness

worship literacy and ownership - I am growing in my own understanding of worship and liturgy through personal study - I will lead the first few high school formation classes this year, examining liturgical worship - Compline, beginning this month, fosters an ownership of our worship heritage

music events that reach beyond our walls - I have invited the community at large to participate in Compline and continue to emphasize the broad invitation that this particular time extends - I continue to plan for the upcoming program year, including invitational and outside events

intergenerational experiences inside of the music ministry - This month's newsletter article from the music ministry emphasizes broad participation in ensembles and worship and highlights our intergenerational ensembles

When we met, we talked about our excitement and also our concerns as we head into fall programming:

Excited: start of a new internship year, seeing more of the congregation in worship with more opportunities, BeFrienders becoming a little more established. Starting a book study, and the possibility of a new opportunity for young adults.

Concerned: workload for staff, that finances will be stretched too far next budget year, that our two Sunday morning services will feel too empty individually, that volunteer help will be stretched too thin, that we haven't had enough education in the congregation about our reasons for worshiping and why our liturgical tradition is important, and how it can be flexible and adaptable for other worship expressions. Concern that our decision-making seems to be "make it up as we go." That we will have low turnout for formation classes. There was a much higher stress level throughout our staff through the summer and much of it grew out of a) many of us being out of the office various points during the summer and b) feeling overwhelmed about planning for the fall to make everything fit.

A critical piece to moving forward is that we have a review team set up very soon to help shape a healthy assessment of the fall schedule in all aspects. I (Pastor James) need help with this.