

We Are Here

Sometimes on a journey it's helpful to step back and take the long view, to identify where we've been and where we're headed and in so doing, to put where we are in context. This is an attempt to provide a brief look at where we are now, following the third Governance Task Force meeting (Making the Path!) on Sunday, April 28.

- 04-27-17 Final report and recommendations of Congregational Discernment Team includes recognition that "It became clear through our listening that the programmatic structure of the past no longer serves us as a congregation, but instead we have begun to serve it." The team's recommendation was that a group of 3-5 people assess the current structure, with the 5 Priorities in mind, and propose a simplified structure that will carry us forward into the future.
- 11-16-17 Council approved a Refocusing Process Proposal that cited various supporting examples of the recommendation above. In addition Council approved the formation of the Governance Task Force "to lead us in a process of examination of our current structure for accomplishing our vision, purpose and priorities."
- 01-18-18 Council identified gifts needed for people who would serve on the Governance Task Force, and names of people who possess those gifts.
- 03-15-18 Wanda reported the team formed from the names identified by Council: Greg Hartzler, Elizabeth Kelly, Gerald Mast, Wanda Stopher and one person invited to fill an open chair as a way of inviting participation and feedback from the congregation.
- 04-05-18 Governance Task Force held their first meeting, beginning the process of learning to know one another, researching available writings on structure, and considering methodology from which to approach the work as a congregation.
- 09-08-19 Retreat led by Marathana Prothro for all Commissions and interested persons from the congregation. This day-long retreat was for a three-fold purpose: to welcome new leaders to the work of respective commissions, to share learnings from GTF work, and to invite participation in the process of envisioning different ways of organizing congregational work.
- 02-10-19 Mapping the New Path Together was the first of a series of three GTF-led events. In this event we deliberately sought to encourage and free the congregation to experiment with new ideas to effectively accomplish our vision, purpose, and priorities. Ideas generated were posted on the FMC website.
- 04-07-19 Making the New Path Together, the second of three GTF-led events introduced an emerging ministry description template. Preparation for the event included the encouragement for the congregation to identify lost and/or new ministries for which individuals have energy and passion. The event was designed to identify

where the energies for ministry are currently and to provide a framework for moving ahead through the ministry template.

- 04-25-19 Council approved a motion to authorize a temporary shift of leadership initiative to the GTF as we continue to experiment with a more flexible form of governance and in preparation to transition to a new governance structure. A proposed timeline was presented and accepted for interim reporting, emerging structure proposal, and implementation of new structure in August 2020.
- 04-28-19 Moving on the New Path Together, the final GTF-led event of the spring was designed to draw a picture of where we are in the process, as well as reminding us all that we really are attempting to build the plane as we go, make the road by walking, see what's working and empower ministry among us! At this meeting, we spent a limited amount of time in groups according to ministry interests. These conversations included some feedback provided by GTF specific to each of those ministries and to how they will need to connect to resources including current commissions, committees, and policies.

May 1 through July 31 The congregation enjoys a time of rest at the same time Pastor Wanda is on sabbatical. Some of the work of emerging ministries will rest over the summer. Other ministries are very near to launch and may begin during this time. Governance Task Force (Greg Hartzler, Elizabeth Kelly, and Gerald Mast) continue in the role of support, connection, and guidance through this time.

Proposed Timeline for continuing the journey -- Summer 2019 until August 2020

Transitional Structure/Phase

- Commission Structure – still in place as it is working
- Transitional/Provisional Structure – now until August 2020
- Report to Council January 2020 identifying emerging pieces of new processes and potential structure
- Proposed New Structure by June 2020 for approval
- Implementation of new structure August 2020