

# 2019/2020 OCC Leadership Retreat



Welcome!



**Orinda**  
**Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Opening Prayer

## Jim Brommers Bergquist



**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Why Are We Here?

## Kurt Sunderbruch



- Alignment and Cooperation
- Identify and Address Gaps
- Aspirations
- Brainstorming
- Plans of Action

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Agenda Review

## Kurt Sunderbruch



Time	Topic	Presenter
Noon – 1:00 PM	Lunch	All
“	“ Opening Prayer	Jim
“	“ Why Are We Here?	Kurt
“	“ Agenda Review	Kurt
“	“ State of OCC	Jim
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Group Building & Centering Prayer	Jim & Elizabeth
1:30 – 3:30 PM	Ministry Reports – Key Questions	Ministry Leads
3:30 – 5:00 PM	Roundtable Discussion	All
5:00 – 6:00 PM	Summary / Next Steps	Jim, Elizabeth, Kurt
“	“ Dinner	All

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# The State of OCC Jim Brommers Bergquist



## The State of OCC

August 2019

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Areas of emphasis

- Care for the Congregation
- Worship and Music
- Nurture of Youth, Children, and Families
- Ministries of Mercy and Justice
- Spiritual and Theological Formation

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Care for the Congregation

- Parish Care Teams
- Groups of church members serve for one month, three times/year (teams of about 4-6). Rev. Jim and Rev. Elizabeth coordinate with Care Team Captains.
- Pastoral Care and Calls
- Rev. Jim and Rev. Elizabeth coordinate contacts and visits with church members, particularly those who are home bound or in need of immediate care.
- Occasional Gatherings for Meals, Discussions, etc.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Worship and music

- Importance of playing to our strengths.
- David, soloists, choir, church members.
- Our resources and talents run deep, so best if we shape worship to what gifts and interests are in our midst.
- Creativity in form of liturgy, building on traditional/classical music.
- “You need to dance with who ‘brung ya’”
- Possibilities
- Celebration Sunday – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month in sanctuary
  - Aim to get close to what we do on Easter and Christmas, with additional instrumentation and more music.
- Occasional “People of Spirit” services in Fellowship Hall

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ



# Youth, children, and families



- How do we continue to enhance this ministry?
- Find a way to support Leslie with more paid hours, and more help with ministry offerings. More involvement from members of the church, who commit a certain amount of time for the entire year. (The students need many adult mentors in their lives)
- Jim will be shifting a bit of his time this year to work with the high school students, but needs other adults to be mentors

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Needs and concerns



- Many of the stalwarts in our congregation are having more mobility and health issues.
- In the contemporary culture, church has become less and less a part of people's schedules, and community is found elsewhere.
- People's spirituality isn't as linked to church communities.
- Traditional models are less familiar.
- People tend to be drawn to communities where they see themselves represented.
- The church is not always seen in a positive light.

## Our building

- There is much infrastructure repair and update work needed. Need to figure out how to invest in our facility and also our staffing and programming.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Internal Ministries



- Parish Care Team
- Chancel Choir
- Bell Choir
- Green Team

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Formation

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Hour Forums
  - Including Christianity 101, a sort of Confirmation/Faith Exploration for all ages
- Writer's Group
- Men's Group
- Women's Spirituality
- Potluck and Program
- Book Groups
  - -Aging as Spiritual Practice

Orinda  
Community

# Group Building & Centering Prayer



Reverends Jim & Elizabeth

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Ministry Presentations

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Children Youth & Families

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Is the Purpose of Your Ministry? (1)



- To encourage/foster/support the children and youth in their spiritual awareness and growth, and to encourage them to follow the ways of Jesus' teachings
- We focus on the children and youth of the congregation, but also try to include others in the community.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ



# What Is the Purpose of Your Ministry? (2)



- We have a small committee of dedicated volunteers, but really do need the support of the entire congregation.
- Resources: members of the ministry, volunteers from the congregation, Leslie in her staff role, a small budget, Jim's experience with youth activities, and enthusiasm from everyone

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What is the Greatest Challenge Facing Your Ministry?

- Volunteers for activities and teaching Sunday School
- More kids!

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ



# What is the Greatest Strength of Your Ministry?

- The children and youth of our congregation feel loved, included, and have a sense of belonging and leadership with the church.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020? (1)



- Will continue staple activities and events (regular youth gatherings, Advent celebration...)
- We hope to establish more outreach to the wider community to encourage attendance in everything from activities/fun to church service. We hope to do this through a well-planned calendar that can be shared via social networking. We also hope to come up with new ideas on how to reach others.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020? (2)



- We would love to make the “littles” Sunday School class (3-5-year olds) more established and consistent.
- We plan to continue to strive for meaningful Sunday School lessons and other gatherings.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Mercy & Justice

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Is the Purpose of Your Ministry?



- To promote Mercy and Justice according to the tenets of the United Church of Christ.
- To provide current, reputable information about organizations doing mercy and justice work so the church may donate funds wisely.
- To provide ongoing information to the congregation about local service opportunities.
- To provide church sponsored service trips locally, nationally and internationally.
- M & J has \$22,000 yearly budget, UCC fair share is \$12,000 of that.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What is the Greatest Challenge Facing Your Ministry?



- Physical engagement from the congregation. We receive generous donations for the financial service projects we propose, but have difficulty getting physical participation in projects that require people's time.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ



# What is the Greatest Strength of Your Ministry?



- Staffing is great - 6 very involved people
- Resources are good (we could always donate more money to great causes)
- Our purpose is clear and we are developing easier ways to deliver it - I.e. 3 year rotation for international and national service projects (working with the same agencies every 3 years). Doing similar yearly fund raisers for great organizations. If it works, don't fix it.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020? (1)



- Elizabeth's interest in homelessness will help us expand our work with the local Food banks, CCIH and other organizations that help solve this problem.
- OCC clean-up day this September.
- Winter Nights this November.
- CCIH Christmas gift drive in December.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020? (2)



- Jim will be working with Miramonte youth on Monday afternoons (Wellness group)
- Food Bank fundraisers
- Friends Afuera
- Accompaniment team
- CCIH monthly dinner July, 2020
- Generosity Challenge again

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020? (3)



- We will continue to try to find local service projects that congregants want to participate in. We have decided that small groups is, most likely, what we will get and we should continue to offer local service projects with this understanding.
- Help: the congregation could give us ideas for what projects would inspire participation. We would like to do more intergenerational work. Help with this would be great.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020? (4)



- We have a great group of dedicated members who will keep doing what we already do.
- Co-operation: Participate whenever possible, suggest improvements we can make and projects you would like to see happen. Keep donating generously to the organization we support.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Buildings & Grounds

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Buildings & Grounds Inputs (1)



The Green Team is very active. Fantastic! My impression is that we advocate for less CO2 creation elsewhere, but how about turning inward more to the OCC campus? We have little to none insulation in most buildings, other than has been added during some re-roof projects. And, we could take advantage of assisted natural ventilation for summer, without energy-consuming air conditioning. We are already replacing lights with highly efficient LED lighting. One initial step toward finding where we generate CO2 is to measure operating time for each furnace. We already have a meter on the TOPS furnace, but just simple timers would work.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Buildings & Grounds Inputs (2)



We are facing an infrastructure maintenance surge. An updated and more maintainable infrastructure may be needed to continue our missions. I'm thinking of water system valve updates-they are beginning to fail, and we can't easily locate leaks due to absence of isolation valves, and can't shut down individual areas for same reason-we shut off groups of buildings, at best an inconvenience. Gas system updates are right now being forced upon us. Lighting updates for less and easier maintenance is underway as technology becomes available and is economically justified and eases maintenance. Roofs and exterior paint are approaching too fast on our side of the road, head on. Same for seismic work, both structural and gas safety. All of this sure doesn't sound much like budgets that I have heard of since the highly successful "Turn Up the Heat" campus upgrade campaign. Approaching time for history to repeat itself

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ



# Finance & Stewardship

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Is the Purpose of Your Ministry?



Finance and Stewardship plans the OCC budget and manages the finances of the church at the direction of Council. F&S also plans and directs campaigns to raise money for the church, particularly the annual Stewardship pledge season.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What is the Greatest Challenge Facing Your Ministry?



OCC has a generous congregation that supports the church and her mission; the biggest challenge is keeping the connection between financial support and OCC missions strong in the congregation

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What is the Greatest Strength of Your Ministry?



Everyone understands the importance of financial soundness in church operations so the mission of the F&S committee is very clear-cut. The committee also has the tremendous advantage of the dedication and skill of the ex officio members, who bring continuity of experience as well as ensuring effective day-to-day operations

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020?



In the coming year our Stewardship drive will highlight some of the recent changes that congregational generosity has enabled. The committee has also discussed ways to keep the congregation more informed about the flow of money in the church, e.g., updates in the Neighbor on cash flow and income relative to budget – we may try to implement these.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020?



Finance and Stewardship needs help from the engagement committee to identify new members

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Care & Fellowship

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Is the Purpose of Your Ministry?



The purpose of the Care & Fellowship Ministry is to provide events and opportunities for communication that advance faith, peace, love, hope, spiritual formation, adventure, care, connection with others, and fun.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ



# What is the Greatest Challenge Facing Your Ministry?



- To become more proactive and less reactive. We have been assisting with church functions where Care and Fellowship could support with meals and set-up, but we should more proactively evaluate needs of the church and the church family and opportunities for additional fellowship.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What is the Greatest Strength of Your Ministry?



- We have a great team: Nancy Peterson, Karen , Leslie Darwin O'Brien, and Vangie Abriel. We could definitely use more members, though.
- We have very supportive church ministers and a very appreciative congregation.
- We have a lovely campus and a beautiful outdoor setting in which to hold fellowship events.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020?



## Current Activities

- Meet short-term needs such as supporting, planning and executing the special event calendar provided by the ministerial leadership.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020?



- We will meet with the ministerial leadership to finalize the special event calendar for the year and provide support as needed for those events.
- We will seek to recruit one or two additional members.
- We will try to put in place more formalized procedures to avoid reinventing the wheel.
- To the extent our members' time allows, we will be more proactive in discerning additional fellowship opportunities we can help to provide.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Lifelong Learning & Spirituality

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Is the Purpose of Your Ministry?



- The vision of the ministry was most recently set forth in a Ministry Description Statement adopted by the members in 2016. The statement reads as follows:
  - “The Ministry of Lifelong Learning and Spiritual Formation (LL&SF) envisions a Caring Community in which we seek connection with others—those of faith, those with doubts, those who wish to explore, those of other faiths, and those of no faith—in an intellectually open, thought provoking, and spiritually illuminating atmosphere that honors and celebrates who we are, both as individuals and as members of the broader religious and secular community.” (OCC 2016 Annual Report, p.26)
- The OCC Bylaws provide that the five ministries “are established to foster, develop, promote and oversee the work, worship and mission of the Church in the areas of primary responsibility indicated for each.” The primary responsibility for our ministry is “Adult Christian education and spiritual development, including the Church Library.” (Sec. 1, Art. 8)

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What is the Greatest Challenge Facing Your Ministry?



- Our 2016 Ministry Description Statement identified our short-term needs and long-term goals as follows:
- “LL&SF’s on-going, primary commitment has been to provide educationally stimulating and spiritually challenging **Second Hour Forums**, following Sunday Worship/Fellowship throughout the year, and occasional half or day-long **Weekend Workshops** for OCC members, friends, and guests.
- “Our long-term expectations are to grow connections into the broader community, envisioning and crafting educational forums and programs that foster creative, critical and spiritual reflection within an open and caring environment. Both for OCC members, friends, seekers, and the un-churched, we want to take our light out from under its bushel and become the church of opportunity, where it ***happens!***”
- In short, our greatest challenge is generating the ideas and recruiting the appropriate speakers and other program participants to create successfully the educationally stimulating and spiritually challenging programs that we seek to provide to the congregation and our community.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What is the Greatest Strength of Your Ministry?



- Our greatest strength is the knowledge, wisdom, curiosity, creativity, inspiration, enthusiasm, and faith commitment of our ministry members as well as other members of our congregation and church staff. Annually we seek to focus and channel this strength effectively into the following programs, areas of responsibility, support, and connections:
  - Monthly meetings, usually on the second Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the Harland Hogue Library.
  - 9 to 12 single class or series **Second Hour Forums** after the Sunday Fellowship Hour.
  - 1 or 2 half or day-long **Weekend Workshops**.
  - 2 **Faith Journey Presentations** after the Sunday Fellowship Hour.
  - Maintenance of the **Harland Hogue Library** and the **Labyrinth**.
  - Support for/connection to **First Hour Adult Education Classes** before worship.
  - Support for/connection to the **Theological Book Club**.
  - Support for/connection to the **Writers' Group**.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ



# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020? (1)



We will sponsor and/or support the following programs and events:

- TBD Book Group: Aging as a Spiritual Practice by Lewis Richmond. Discussion led by Jim and Elizabeth (Monthly Monday Senior Lunch at Noon and another monthly date)
- 9/9 Next monthly ministry meeting (7 p.m.)
- 9/11 Midweek contemplative worship service led by Elizabeth (Every Wednesday through December, 6:30 pm. supper, 7 p.m. worship service)
- 9/29 Faith Journey: Eartha Newsong (11:30)
- 10/6 Book Group: Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid by Jimmy Carter (11:30)

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020? (2)



- 10/13 Christianity 101: Curriculum pending with Jim and Elizabeth. 8 to 10 sessions, other dates: 10/20, 11/10, 11/17, 12/8, and 12/15 (11:30)
- 10/14 Ministry meeting (7 p.m.)
- 11/3 Speaker from Jewish Voices for Peace (4 p.m.)
- 11/11 Ministry meeting (7 p.m.)
- TBD Poetry as a Spiritual Practice with Elizabeth Robinson
- TBD Faith and Music with David Milnes and Ann Moss

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Ministry Needs



- More suggestions for new programs that are educationally stimulating and spiritually challenging.
- Suggestions for speakers and other program participants to implement the new program ideas.
- Timely promotion and publicity for scheduled ministry programs and events.
- Greater connection between what takes place in Sunday worship services and the ministry programs offered after those services.
- Improved collaboration, coordination, and communication with the church council and staff and the other ministries of the church.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Endowment Board

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Is the Purpose of Your Ministry?



## Endowment Fund Background

- **“The purpose of an endowment fund is to provide a permanent repository for gifts that are not specified for current use or for specific memorial purposes. Such a fund, which is a trust in nature, creates a source of perpetual income to be used for the needs of the Church while the principal remains intact... The Fund of the Church shall be administered by an Endowment Board “\***

## Endowment Board Purpose

- **Income from the Fund shall be used to finance special Church needs or programs beyond the scope of the annual Church operating budget.**
- **The Endowment Board supports the following types of programs: Senior Pastor Housing, Youth Program, Building Improvements, Justice and Mercy grants, Music Program Grants**

\* From the Orinda Community Church Endowment Fund By Laws

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What is the Greatest Challenge Facing Your Ministry?



No Major Challenges, but ongoing concerns:

- Large number of church needs and limited annual spendable from Endowment
- Balancing the salary support needs of the Church with Endowment's charter to invest "beyond the operational needs of the church"
- How to continue to fundraise and get new commitments to Legacy Circle
- Identifying an additional Board member with relevant experience

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What is the Greatest Strength of Your Ministry?



Endowment fund is strong and healthy

- Made meaningful grants to improve the Church
- Investments have performed well
- Held a thank you event for Legacy Circle and recruited a new member.
- Have helped with salary support for the Church on an exception basis
- Ongoing support for Senior Pastor housing
- Each member of the Endowment Board makes important contributions

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What Will Your Ministry Do in 2019/2020?



- Identify grants with greatest impact to Church (~\$28,000 per year)
- Hold an event to recruit new members to the Legacy Circle
- Continue to look for a new Board Member with appropriate Skills
- Review the investment choices for appropriateness with Church goals and market conditions

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ



# Worship & Music

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Worship and Music (W&M)



The purpose of W&M is to:

- Help connect the congregation to their spiritual inspiration
- Help to unify the congregation in common expression
- Help attract new congregants

The elements are organized by W&M leaders for:

- Acolytes
- Lay readers
- Greeters and ushers
- Art wall
- Sanctuary decor
- Communion
- Choir, solos, hymns, bell choir, songs, and accompaniment

Orinda  
Community

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# The greatest challenges facing W&M



- W&M is not attracting many new congregants
- There is a divergence of opinion on the style and form of the main service

**Orinda**  
**Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# The greatest strengths of W&M



- The deep spirituality of the W&M leaders and volunteers
- A stable history of highly values ceremony
- A well-organized process of leaders to recruit and execute
- Exceptional musical talent

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# What will W&M do in the next year?



- Continue to execute the W&M ceremonies
- Introduce some new concepts:
  - Hold separate contemplative services
  - Experiment with some music genres
  - ..
- Form a study team - recommend options for closing the divergence of opinion in W&M at main service

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Roundtable Discussion

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Roundtable Discussion Topics



- Congregational Care – Addressing an aging population
- Church communication – internal and external
- Care for Youth & Families
- Ministries of Mercy & Justice
- Intellectual & Spiritual Growth
- Inspiring & Creative Worship

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Summary, Gaps & Overlaps, Next Steps

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ



# Gaps & Overlaps

## Gaps

- Communication / Connection – especially between ministries
- More effective use of the calendar and social media (internal vs. external audiences)
- Physical as well as financial participation in the ministries (e.g. Justice & Mercy)
- The need to have a feedback mechanism (how are we doing?) for Worship & Music and other ministries
- Since OCC redefined the bylaws to reduce the number of ministries and to reduce the need for ministry leads to attend council, we don't have a formal structure for communication between the ministries and the rest of OCC

## Overlaps

- Worship & Music and Lifelong Learning & Spirituality both have an interaction with the emphasis in worship services – it would be good to formally coordinate

**Orinda  
Community**

# Strengths & Opportunities



## Strengths

- Congregational engagement
- Beautiful and unique grounds and physical plant (also a liability to maintain)
- Location; being in Orinda, being on the hill overlooking central Orinda, a large plot of land helping us perform our ministries
- Our music
- Community; both within the congregation and with the neighbors

## Opportunities for the future

- Do more with meals; frozen meals for members who are shut-in or going through crisis, and shared meals in the church in the same way as the early church – building community
- Offer contemplation opportunities (e.g., contemplative worship, centering prayer, etc.)
- Be a place where the community can participate in justice projects
- High school outreach
- Do more with intellectual growth and discussion groups

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Roundtable Discussion



## Care for an Aging Congregation

- Categories of care include; inclusion, mobility, end of life preparation
  - Inclusion can be enhanced through inviting older, less mobile members to offer God Moments for Mission or God Moments through taking the mic out to the pews, or helping members who don't want to speak to transcribe their testimony to share with the congregation
  - Acknowledge the legacy of older members, including through short biographies in the membership directory.
  - More coverage (lay) for home visits
  - More resources, such as a parish nurse
  - Provide transportation to church
  - Hold worship in Fellowship Hall for easier access to mobility challenged members
- An open and affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ

## Improve Communication

- Define and formalize ownership of internal and external communication (e.g., who's responsible, creation of a checklist for social media posts, should this be owned by a ministry/committee/dedicated person?)
- Accurate ministry rosters
- Improvements to the OCC website, event calendar, and social media presence

**Orinda  
Community  
Church** of Christ

# Roundtable Detailed Notes (1)



## **Congregational Care:**

- We're addressing an aging population. What can we do better? 80% of congregation is over 60, with elders often having mobility issues. They have difficulty getting to church and moving around. The Fellowship Hall can be easier to get to than the sanctuary, depending on the drop off point. Per Elizabeth, we could do a session on end of life decision making. Three appropriate topics could be mobility/accessibility; how do we think about spiritually moving through aging; and planning for death. We could set up a resource on a given day to deal with living wills. LL&S might be able to get a speaker. Gail Mead mentioned Five Wishes, an organization that will provide advice on end of life wishes.
- We could look into transportation services for elders. ACTION: Jim will investigate transportation alternatives. We could also bring the worship service to the elders at their house—30 minutes or so. What to do with shut ins? Home visits and cards make a difference.
- What have other congregations done—we can't be the only church facing this. Theological support for those with dementia is available. Does the UCC have any resources on aging? What is the local county resource on aging? (NOTE: Contra Costa County Area Agency on Aging)
- Can we better access the wisdom/legacy of our older folks? Have them do Moments for Mission or God Moments or participate in an interview to obtain their spiritual journeys. Renew those journeys done before. Keep short and sweet. Could do a photo church directory with small bios on some of the older folks. The church has banners made by Rudi and the sewing circle. We could review these to see what's available to show to the congregation/youth. Youth could display the banners, hymnal dedications.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Roundtable Detailed Notes (2)



## **Communication (External and Internal):**

- This topic may qualify as a new Ministry for OCC. How can we improve OCC through better use of communication tools? Social media is important. We need to find someone to do social media for us (Kelsey used to do some for us). What do we put out on social media? Could use a checklist to decide what gets sent out. Can we share our music? We'd need a good recording and sound system. ACTION: Kurt and David M will investigate sound and recording possibilities and hearing aid support. Elizabeth is willing to do more with our Facebook account. We can start with baby steps to improve our social media. Do we need professional help to get our news out there on social media? ACTION: Kurt and Jim will get input on a social media strategy/best practices.
- We need a roster of ministry chairs with contact numbers to include in our church directory or at least to provide to our ministry/committee leaders. The Council had one a few years ago but it isn't up-to-date. The roster would help improve our internal communications. Ministries need a clear, more explicit link with C&F on events, providing a 2-month warning when C&F involvement is needed. Calendaring is critical. Each ministry event needs to be self-supporting so the suggested donation matches the expenses.

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ

# Action Items



- W&M alignment – Kurt S will report to OCC Council
- Investigate transportation alternatives for aging members – Jim B
- Investigate possibilities to improve the OCC sound system and enhance recordings of church music. Additionally, investigate adding a hearing aid “loop” to the sanctuary – Kurt S and David M
- Gather input on social media strategy and best practices – Kurt S and Jim B

**Orinda  
Community**

An open and affirming congregation of the United **Church** of Christ