

Get Involved with Our Long-Range Plan Activities

In April members of the Congregation have two opportunities to be engaged in our Long-Range Planning work. All are invited to attend the following two Zoom meetings hosted by the Long-Range Planning Program Office:

- **Wednesday, April 7 - Key Ministries working session. 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.** All are welcome to participate in this working session. We will review the concept of Key Ministries, lay out the draft of SFBC's Key Ministries that we have so far, and take input regarding what our Key Ministries should be going forward. The current draft is on the Long-Range Planning page of our church website: <https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/long-range-planning.html>
- **Sunday, April 18 - Open Forum update on LRP Task Forces. 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.** All are welcome to come hear the latest status from our Long-Range Planning Task Forces and to ask questions of task force members. Status reports are also published online on the Long-Range Planning page of our church website: <https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/long-range-planning.html>

Our task forces continue to do great work on our behalf. Following are updates on their activities:

Governance – The task force has reviewed our current bylaws and identified sections that need attention. They have drafted updated language about membership in SFBC that more closely reflects who we are as a congregation. They are discussing new governance structures and are observing how this year's modified Diaconate is functioning.

Pastoral Transition – Members have completed interviews with twelve past and present staff members dating back 10 to 15 years. They sent the Personnel Commission a list of characteristics, qualities and talents they think are needed in an interim pastor. Work continues to develop a summary of key elements from the interviews. They are beginning to work on “develop an understanding of our key ministries and how they relate to pastoral and other staffing” and “understanding the staffing costs related to key ministries” as stated in the task force statement of work.

Senior Ministries – 38 surveys were returned for the team's consideration. They are collating a list of literature related to Senior Ministries read and reviewed. Work continues on reviewing the surveys and drafting a Purpose Statement. Also under discussion are a “name” for Seniors, exploring a “Wisdom Series,” and Ageism in our church and in ourselves.

Anti-Racism – The group hosted an information session for all task force members and the Executive Committee on March 7. The task force also met with the Executive Committee regarding the concern that the Diaconate has no people of color this year when being anti-racist is a priority value. The task force will continue to urge other groups to listen to the voices

of BIPOC as they do their work and make recommendations. A facilitator may be hired at a future date.

Facilities – Interviews with building users, stakeholders and other churches (Bellevue Christian, Urban Grace in Tacoma, University Methodist Temple) have proceeded in earnest. The task force continues to explore the seismic issue, interviewing Darren Hochstedler, Bob Sittig and Dave Greene. Dave suggested hiring a construction company to do estimates of selected seismic work. Interviews coming up include Keith and Cindy Ervin of Interfaith Climate Action and representatives of Bet Alef. A tour of all our facilities is planned, as is a discussion about how the task force can make their work more anti-racist.

Small Groups – The task force has reviewed best practices from other churches and has also benefited by some research documents related to small group ministries. The group will continue to discuss big picture questions and is starting to focus in on possible sections for a “Strategic Overview” of a new small group ministry at SFBC.