

# RESILIENCE

LENT 2021

the Spire  
March 2021



seattle first baptist

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*Submissions for the Spire are due by the 20th of the month prior.*

*All submissions should be sent to [editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:editor@seattlefirstbaptist.org)*

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### © 2021 Seattle First Baptist Church

The Spire is published monthly by Seattle First Baptist Church,  
1111 Harvard Ave, Seattle, WA 98122

**Email Delivery:** To subscribe for email delivery or our weekly newsletter, register online at  
[www.seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org)

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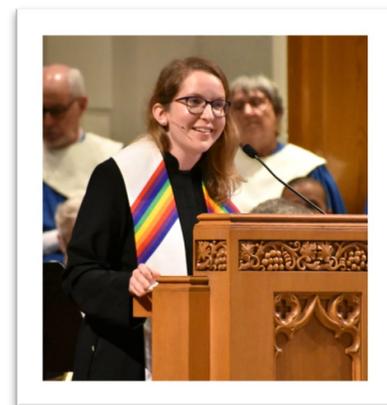
*\*please note office closure details on p.10*

# From the Pastor's Desk

## Coping with Change in the Lenten Season

By Pastor Anita Peebles

Prolific Afro-futurist author Octavia Butler wrote in *Parable of the Sower* that “God is change.” And there’s a lot of change going on at SFBC. The long-range planning process has led to the establishment of task forces that are gathering information and will prepare recommendations for our life together that will help us live into our values. These recommendations will impact our worship, our governance, our finances, our facilities and how we engage with each other and with our neighborhood. Lots of change. But if we consider the visionary words of Octavia Butler, I also wonder how you are experiencing God in these times of change?

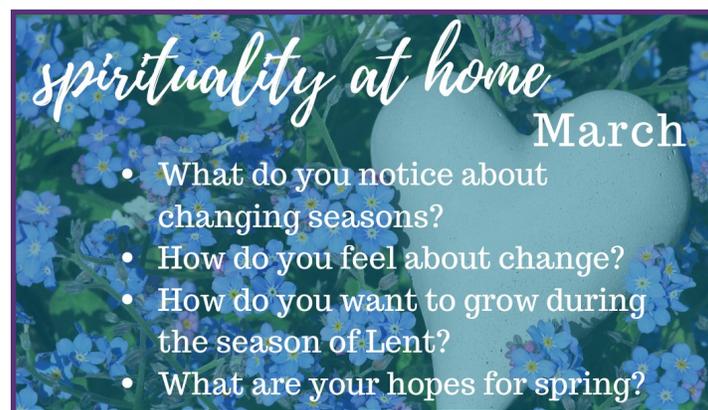


Here are some ways I am experiencing God through the work of this church right now:

- The call to be antiracist, individually and as a congregation. This is of paramount importance to our integrity as people following the way of Jesus.
- The grace we give each other as we grow together. Not one of us is perfect — and that’s ok. We are beautifully and complexly human, and we have the capacity to learn and change our minds and grow. What a gift.
- The resilience of a congregation who still meets together and loves each other and challenges each other to be our best selves, one year into this pandemic.
- The dedication of our members who continue to facilitate opportunities to share our financial and material resources with our neighbors, particularly our Outreach commission.
- The commitment of all those who have agreed to serve on Diaconate and on task forces, motivated by love for this congregation and a willingness to be flexible in these times of change.
- The abundant love I feel from my colleagues Pastor Patricia and Pastor Tim, and our fellow staff. We are blessed to be a team, to collaborate as we share our gifts and skills through our work.
- The joy of interacting with this church’s children and youth through Godly Play and youth group and Zoom meetings and letters shared via snail mail. These kids are not only the future—they are the RIGHT NOW, and constantly teach me how to love openly and challenge power structures and do justice.
- The honor of accompanying this church through pastoral care. I see the Divine reflected in each of you.

What would you add to this list?

...cont'd on next page



# Worship Together

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It is appropriate that we are talking about change during Lent because Lent is also a time of change. It is a time of self-purification, of reflecting on relationships with God and with others, so that we might live fully into the vision of the beloved kin-dom to which Jesus leads us. During Lent, many people give something up, refraining from engaging with items or practices that hinder their connection with the Divine. Others decide to take something on, to try a new practice or a new outlook, to learn new skills or build capacity. Godly Play teaches that Lent is the time for "getting ready to come close to the mystery of Easter." In your Lenten practices, I wonder how you are preparing yourself to be near to the mystery?

Baptists are not creedal, which means we don't sign on to one particular statement of belief. But the words from the United Church of Canada in the box to the right always resonate for me...

*Beloved SFBC, you are not alone. We are not alone.*

*Thanks be to God.*

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.  
We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.  
We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

## Contemplation and Prayer in the Style of Taizé

**Wednesdays during Lent, 6:30 p.m.**

The Wednesday evening Community Gatherings during Lent will be short services of justice-centered reflection, song, ritual and prayer. We will use music from the ecumenical Christian monastery in Taizé, France and reflections on Scripture and poetry. This will last

**taize**  
*wednesdays*  
Contemplation &  
Prayer during  
Lent  
6:30 p.m.

half an hour at the most and be a time for quiet reflection and fellowship. The remaining Wednesdays in Lent are **March 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31**. If you would like to volunteer to help with this offering, please email Pastor Anita at:

[Anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:Anita@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/543978086>

Meeting ID: 543 978 086



# Worship Together

## Palm SUNDAY Branches to-go

Fri, March 26, 9-3  
Sat, March 27, 10-12



## Palm Sunday Branches To-Go

**Friday, March 26, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. &  
Saturday, March 27, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.**

Pick up your palm branches to-go at SFBC on Friday, March 26 or Saturday, March 27. Palms are sustainably harvested. Get yours and bring them to coffee hour on Palm Sunday, March 28!



## Maundy Thursday April 1, 6 p.m.

Gather for a virtual meal, ritual and communion as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. All are welcome.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87980683285>

Meeting ID:

879 8068 3285

Click Here for a recipe for communion bread:

<http://bit.ly/sfbc-bread>



Good FRIDAY  
for kids

April 2  
5:30 p.m.

## Good Friday Service for Kids April 2, 5:30 p.m.

Children and youth are invited to spend time together exploring the story of Good Friday through age-appropriate activities and conversations about feelings.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88071203806>

Meeting ID:

880 7120 3806

Maundy  
THURSDAY

April 1, 6 p.m.

Good FRIDAY

April 2  
7 p.m.

## Good Friday Service April 2, 7 p.m.

A reflective and contemplative worship service on Zoom.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86374057203>

Meeting ID:

863 7405 7203

EASTER SUNDAY 2021  
APRIL 4  
11 A.M.

he is risen!

# Learning Together

## Adult Education Update for March

During the month of March there will be no scheduled Adult Education for the 9:30 a.m. hour on Sunday. That time continues to be held for task forces to have space to communicate with each other as needed.

There will be a meeting on March 7 for task force executive members to hear from the Antiracist committee what best practice would be for all task force committees.

### Digital Lent Devotional

<http://bit.ly/sfbc-lent-devo>

Observe the season of Lent with SFBC's Digital Lent Devotional. Visit the following link every day of Lent and find a new prayer, song, reflection, or video to get you thinking. Feel free to share with friends and family! This calendar will be accessible on the church website on the home page:

[www.seattlefirstbaptist.org](http://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org)

### Young Adult Fellowship

Friday, March 19, 7-8 p.m.

Gather with other Young Adults for a conversation about SFBC values and how we live them each day. Informal, come as you are, all are welcome.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89781179108>

Meeting ID: 897 8117 9108

### Youth Group

Sundays, March 7 & 21, 5 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87290341239>

Meeting ID: 872 9034 1239

## New Podcast from Dr. Frank Spina

Dr. Frank Anthony Spina, Emeritus Professor of Old Testament at Seattle Pacific University, and former Priest Associate at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church (Bellevue) launched a podcast

in December 2020 entitled: *The Bible You Thought You Knew*. These free audio podcasts download every Tuesday on your favorite podcast listening platforms, such as Apple Podcast, Spotify, Google Podcasts, iTunes, etc. Visit Frank's website

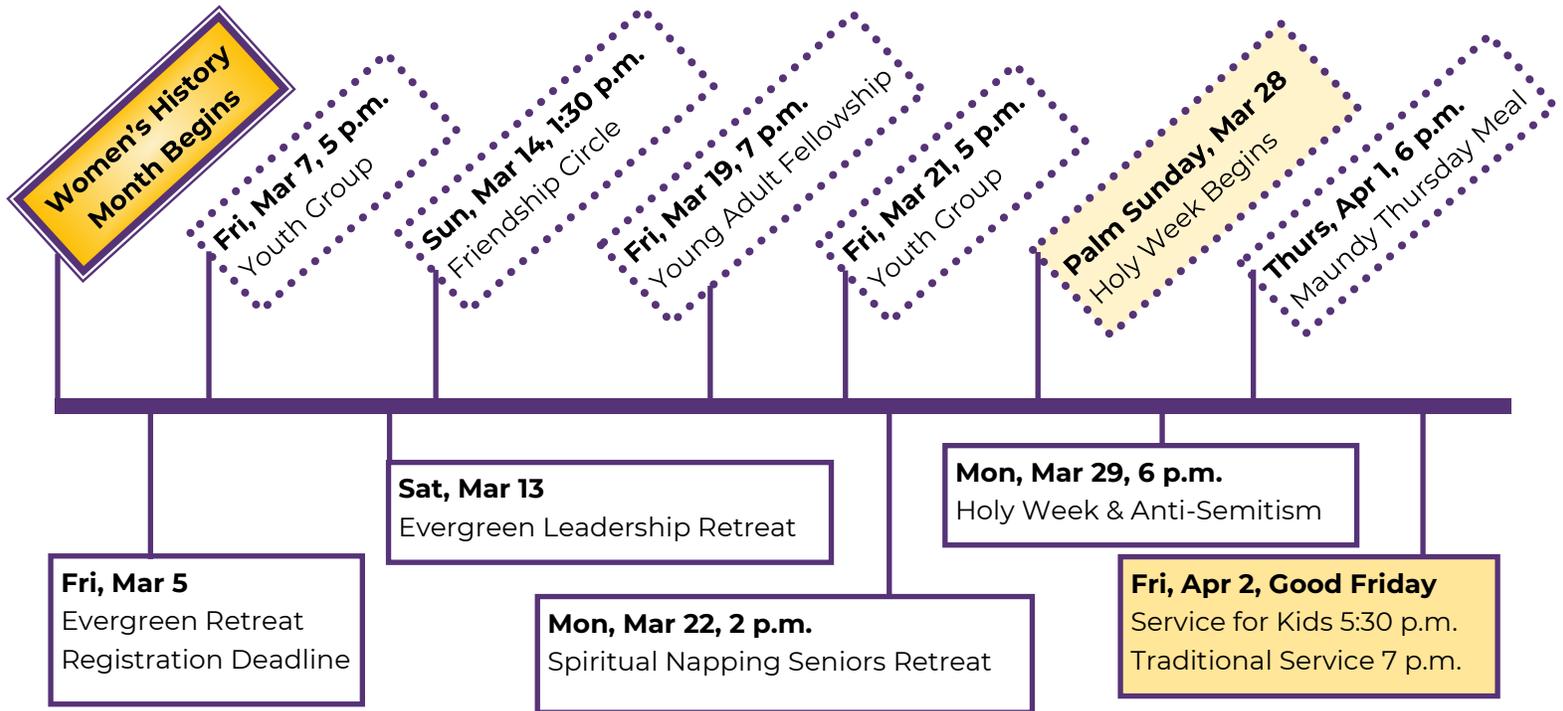
[www.faspina.com](http://www.faspina.com) for added features. Long-time SFBC members may remember

Frank as the Adult Education teacher at our church for many years. Frank is currently Priest Associate at St. Michael's, the Episcopal cathedral in Boise, ID.

### Honoring Women in Music By Ben Leudcke, Minister of Music

In honor of Women's History Month, Seattle First Baptist is featuring music by female composers, musicians, and arrangers during the month of March. Likewise, the Hymn Sing on March 3 will feature all female hymnists. We intend to acknowledge and celebrate these women by learning about their lives, spiritual call, and artistic contributions in an otherwise male-dominated field.

# March at a Glance



## Regular Gatherings

### Sundays:

- 9:30 a.m. - *Adult Education on hiatus in March*
- 10:30 a.m. - Godly Play
- 11 a.m. - Sunday Service
- 12 p.m. - Coffee Hour

### Tuesdays:

- 12 p.m. - Prayer and Reflection with Pastor Patricia

### Wednesdays:

- 6:30 p.m. - Contemplative Prayer in the Style of Taize
- 7:30 p.m. - Music Programming

### Thursdays:

- 12 p.m. - Bible Study with Pastor Tim (Lectionary Study)

### Fridays:

- 4:30 p.m. - Happy Hour

**Zoom links and details can be found at our online calendar:**

<https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/calendar>

# Our Life Together

## Evergreen Leadership Retreat

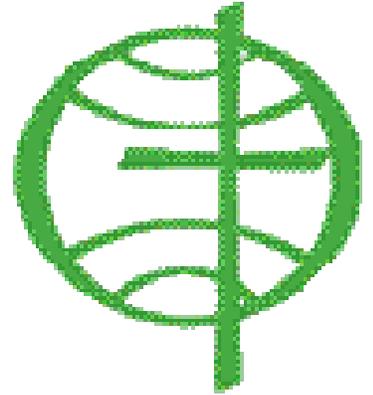
**Saturday, March 13, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

Are you a layperson who wants to learn more about our unique ABC region? Do you want to grow your skills and leadership to help make our church and our Evergreen Region more just and inclusive? YOU are invited to this retreat!

Retreat is on Zoom. Link will be sent when registered. Asking \$10 Donation Fee. If that is a hardship, please contact the Evergreen office or the SFBC office.

**Register by March 5.**

Find more info and register here: <https://www.ea-abc.org/leadership-retreat.html>



## Spiritual Napping: Tools for Resilience

### A Mini Lenten Retreat for Seniors

**Monday, March 22, 2-4:30 p.m.**

We haven't had a senior retreat or gathering of any kind for so long. It is time! In keeping with the Lenten theme of Resilience, Cherry Johnson will be introducing the concept of Spiritual Napping. There will be conversations in small groups, brief presentation times by Cherry, and best of all, the joy of being together.



**YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE** in order to get the Zoom link for this retreat. To do so, email Cherry at [retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:retreats@seattlefirstbaptist.org) or call the church office. FREE to all (though donations to the SFBC Retreat Scholarship Fund are always welcome.)

### **Do you qualify as a "senior?"**

There is no age limit—low or high. If you're asking, you're qualified.

## Learn More About SFBC at Diaconate Board Meetings

**Thursday, March 18, 7 p.m.**

Diaconate Board meetings are a great way to learn more about the future and vision of SFBC, especially as we transition and lean into our Long-Range Planning. Save the date and join in! The meetings are every third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Open for all to come and listen.

Notify the President at [president@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:president@seattlefirstbaptist.org) to receive the Zoom link.

# Our Life Together

## Long-Range Planning Update for March

By Jim Segaar

Our task forces are hard at work, as you will see from the statuses for each below. We are also planning two events for the entire congregation, most likely in April. We will publicize the details of these events as soon as they are available. Following are brief notes about each task force. For more information see our webpage at: <https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/long-range-planning.html>

**Antiracism** – The task force is planning to reach out to the other task forces regarding what an antiracist action plan looks like as they deliberate. The team is also working on doing an antiracist audit of SFBC. Concern has been expressed that the current Diaconate for 2021 is again all white and is not in keeping with the goal of being racially inclusive and antiracist. [Program Office note: Members of the taskforce and lay leadership met to discuss this in February.]

**Facilities** – Members have been interviewing other task forces to open lines of communication. They have also interviewed building users to gauge their needs and issues. They have been hearing that transportation and parking are concerns for members and tenants alike. Additional liaisons to building stakeholders were assigned. The group is planning a discussion with the Antiracism task force, and the recent seismic report will be discussed. The team is trying to find or create a geographic survey of where our members live. [Program Office note: The Executive Committee has clarified that the taskforce should not focus on near-term parking issues. A solution is in place for when we once again gather in person.]

**Governance** – The task force has carefully reviewed the information coming from the Long-Range Planning effort. They also reviewed best practices for church governance. This research indicates that smaller, streamlined governing bodies is the direction most churches have been moving towards recently. A third focus was to thoroughly review SFBC's bylaws to start identifying areas for improvement. Upcoming work includes observing how the interim governance structure is working. Members are working on a number of deliverables to aid in their upcoming discussions.

**Pastoral Transition** – Task force members are conducting interviews with 12 past and present staff members to get feedback on how the current pastoral model is working. They plan to complete those interviews in February. [Program Office note: the interviews have been completed.]

**Senior Ministries** – A 10-question survey was developed and sent out to seniors in the congregation. The task force also provided feedback to the Facilities task force. Next steps including reviewing LRP responses, exploring how racism affects seniors, and exploring alternative names for "Seniors."

**Small Group** – The task force decided to do a "reset." It is stepping back to look at the big picture, establish a process for the completion of our work, and develop ground rules for how we will work together. A new work plan and schedule will emerge out of this bigger picture work.

# Our Life Together

## A Look at the Year Ahead

By Jim Ginn

The 151st Annual Congregation Meeting on January 31st provided a joyful and energetic launch to our collaborative communal work this year. Thank you to all who attended and to those who worked so hard to create a meaningful online experience. Your engagement was inspiring and invigorating.

We are at the beginning of another transitional year with opportunities and challenges before us both known and unknown. We welcome our work with clear eyes and open hearts. As we look at the work ahead, five key themes emerge.

### **Antiracism**

Good work was begun last year raising awareness, particularly among some of our white members, and informing our responses to racism outside our walls, within this community and within ourselves individually. We have so much to learn and feel and do as individuals and as a faith community to strive for the ideal of full inclusion. This important work must receive priority focus as we hold each other accountable to build a community in which the voices and gifts of our BIPOC members and friends are listened to, valued and elevated in the life of our church.

### **Outreach**

We will strengthen our focus on what COVID teaches us about reaching out to care for our neighbors when being physically present is risky or impossible. We will explore how to learn, grow, and serve in the connections we make during this challenging time with awareness that outreach needs will continue post COVID.

### **Long Range Planning**

Six task forces, with over thirty members, are off and running to lead us through exploration of future directions for:

- Facilities
- Small Group Ministry
- Anti-Racism
- Governance
- Senior Ministry
- Pastoral Transition

We anticipate recommendations from these task forces this year and beyond leading to Diaconate and congregational discernment and decisions.

### **Re-entry after COVID**

Leadership will prepare and guide the congregation through the process of physically re-entering our facilities, while continuing on-line access opportunities, on a feasible timeline in keeping with government and health agencies' guidance. This includes an already established plan for providing parking in the near to mid term as construction begins on the lot behind our building this summer.

### **Pastoral Transition**

Finally, but certainly not least, we will heartily honor and celebrate Pastor Tim Phillips and Patrick Green in their final full year of ministry with us as we begin to prepare for an interim pastoral period.

This is a lot! With that foreknowledge the Diaconate made the decision last year to streamline our governance structure for this year to enable sufficient focus of resources on Long Range Planning. For this interim transitional year, we introduced the model of replacing seven of our nine commissions with individual Commission Stewards. Work will continue in all nine commission areas, but it will be done at a level feasible within the streamlined structure. This model may raise questions for some. If so, please feel free to reach out to me, Jim Ginn, by email at [president@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:president@seattlefirstbaptist.org).

Change on this scale can feel both overwhelming and enlivening. We move forward confident in the knowledge that we engage in this work together. We shine light on each other's paths. Leadership looks forward to walking this path with you. We commit to communicating and engaging with you frequently throughout the year.

**Peace,**

**Jim Ginn**

**SFBC President**

# Our Life Together

## Questions for You from the Facility Task Force

By Linda Zaugg

Have you ever had trouble getting into the church or finding your way to a meeting or to pick up your child? Do you worry about what might happen to the church building during a major earthquake? Are you concerned about the climate impact of our energy use, not to mention its inefficiency? Do you wonder how the congregation will secure parking space once the parking lot behind us has begun its evolution into an apartment complex in a couple of months? Do you feel that the current buildings support our mission and our vision for the future and are the right size for us?

These are some of the issues that our task force is grappling with, as we interview tenants and user groups, collect information, study transcripts of the focus groups, ponder our Key Ministries, and consider what other downtown churches have done with aging buildings. Just as in 1910, when the road was regraded out from under the new downtown church, the post-Covid future is upon us, and the Long-Range Plan has asked us to analyze the cost and feasibility of all these options:

- Keep and retrofit all existing buildings to meet our requirements
- Keep the sanctuary and tear down the other buildings. Retrofit the sanctuary and build new facilities on the site of the other buildings
- Tear down all three buildings and build new facilities on the site
- Sell the existing buildings and property and relocate
- Others?

These directives are quoted from the Scope of Work (SOW) for our task force. You can read this whole document on the church's website at

<https://www.seattlefirstbaptist.org/long-range-planning.html>.

The Facility Task Force needs you — your prayers, your imagination, and your input! We want your comments, concerns, suggestions, or any resources you may know about. Contact us at our new email address: [facilitytaskforce@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:facilitytaskforce@seattlefirstbaptist.org).

## COVID-19 & SFBC

We continue to monitor the situation in our region in order to ensure the safety and health of our community. We will be continuing services and gatherings online and our office will remain closed to the public for now. There will continue to be very limited staff on-site every weekday between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. You may always reach the staff through their individual e-mails or [contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org).

We are hopeful with the continued rollout of the vaccine, but also encourage you to follow our state's directives to continue masking and social distancing. If you would like someone to reach out, please don't hesitate to contact us at the email above.

## Holy Week and Anti-Semitism: A Sacred Conversation

**Monday, March 29, 6 p.m.**

Imagine this. You are a Jew and also a member of the SFBC congregation. Holy Week is coming, and you are bracing yourself – not just because you're wondering if someone will tell the story in a way that accuses Jews of killing Jesus – but because you're carrying the burden of intergenerational trauma stemming from centuries of anti-Semitism based on this very story.

One of our stated values is that we will actively work to recognize and change our own biases. Here is an opportunity to do just that, to begin a dialogue on how to improve our inclusivity with regard to our Jewish members and neighbors.

Join Pastor Tim Phillips and Cherry Johnson for a 90-minute Zoom session on Monday of Holy Week for a sacred conversation about Holy Week and anti-Semitism.

### 2021 Officers and Church Leaders

For more information please contact the church at [contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org](mailto:contact@seattlefirstbaptist.org)

<b>Executive Committee</b>	<b>President:</b> Jim Ginn <b>VPr:</b> Megan Walker <b>Treasurer:</b> Bob Sittig <b>Secretary:</b> Dick Miller	<b>Personnel</b>	Theresa Pruett (Chair) Sara Tollefson Peter Shafer Marsha Ulmer, Joyce Phillips
<b>Church Home Operations</b>	Rodhney Tull	<b>CFYA</b>	Mary Jeffers
<b>Members at Large</b>	Mike Zaugg Metta Williams	<b>Stewardship</b>	John Benner (Chair), Pat Kile, Rebecca Morris, Erik Zaugg
<b>Membership Engagement</b>	Brent Marble	<b>Music</b>	Darla O'Brian
<b>Adult Education</b>	Martha Hopley	<b>Outreach</b>	Beth Reis
<b>Worship</b>	Sterling Morris		