

Shepherd's Co-op Study Committee: Dissolving

Topic: Brainstorming issues around dissolving the Co-operative Parrish and once again becoming an independent UMC.

Our task is to look at the options for what to do with the cooperative parish. We don't necessarily have to answer all the questions as much as we have to ask the right questions. We were looking at these questions with a bias of what was in the best long term interest of Shepherd's, and assuming that the team at Christ UMC is doing the same.

We identified the primary strengths of the two churches as Shepherd's, Children's ministry and Christ, serving and caring for each other.

Potential benefits of dissolving:

1. Only have 1 location for our members to go to
2. Eliminate the dual focus of the staff and membership and allow us to be more focused on our mission and vision
3. Accelerate the urgency for a new building
4. We would only have to worry about the ramifications of decisions on 1 congregation rather than on how something would affect two very different congregations.

Struggles / Areas to Work through if dissolve:

1. The leadership and involvement from the parishioners is higher at Christ and would leave a void at Shepherd's if we dissolved.
2. Man Power and Facilities usage.
3. Wednesday night programs . The SRC campus is not as conducive to the FEAST as is Christ's fellowship hall.

We talked for a while about whether it was appropriate for us to consider what the ramifications of dissolution may be on the long term future of Christ Church. The general answer was yes – and we did talk about some of the possible scenarios if we did dissolve, and the difficult position it might put some of the current Christ folks in. The final thoughts were that ultimately, that cannot be the deciding factor for us.

Shepherd's Co-op Study Committee: Merging

Topic: Brainstorming issues around merging the two congregations.

The discussion centered around the idea of Merger and what the issues are.

Potential benefits of merging:

1. Facility Visibility and Accessibility
2. No need to build on either campus
3. We can maintain the status quo on joint things that are already in place
4. We have a nice mix between the two churches and we would maintain that.
5. There is a lot of leadership potential that is untapped in both campuses
6. We could save money by being able to combine staff positions that are currently duplicated.
7. We could save substantial money by eliminating 1 of the Pastoral positions and move to 1 full time 1 part time position.
8. We are assuming that we would offer a variety of services, including a traditional and contemporary service.

Struggles / Areas to Work through if merge:

1. We would have to resolve the conflicts of mission/vision/place – we felt strongly that the mission of SRC shouldn't change and don't feel it's an area we should compromise.
2. We would have to consolidate our Property – staff – debt – location – all of which would be big issues.
3. Pastoral role – what to do about the two Pastors.
4. A number of decisions would have to be made about service times, types and style of worship, and locations for worship.
5. Potential for people leaving.
6. 1 Pastor and 2 Campuses – would some feel neglected – could one of the current Pastor make this transition. In other words, would the Bishop appoint one of the two present pastors to this new merged church, or would the conference bring in a new pastor.