

## The Teams Are Up and Running!

Greetings! Among the items we discussed at the Annual Budget Meeting a few weeks ago was the excitement associated with being on the forefront of change. We also talked about the mobilization of three new temporary teams at First Church, each having a specific purpose. All three teams have been formed and their work is underway. Here are descriptions of the teams, all of which report to Council:

- **The Income Enhancement Team** is charged with presenting a small number of big ideas that can help us close a projected budget gap for 2010. The IET's role is to collect ideas, evaluate their feasibility, and identify pros and cons of each. Once ideas are selected, we will determine how to best implement them. Ideas will be presented to Council in early 2010.
- **The Financial Strength Team** will recommend methods to create long-term income streams for First Church. Some organizations have implemented similar programs called 'planned giving.' Recommendations will be made by mid-2010.
- **The Transformation Team** will coordinate an effort to define First Church's identity (i.e. determine how we should direct our focus), identify changes to implement it, and define the structure needed to support it. Elements of this team's work will unfold in the first half of 2010.

For me personally, one of the most exciting aspects of teamwork at First Church is that it reminds me how blessed we are with an abundance of broadly talented, deeply devoted brothers and sisters. These three teams certainly embody that blessing. But, you can also see the same in the many other groups at First Church. Our collective ability is virtually unlimited.

Please see below for the people who are currently on the three teams. I thought it might be helpful in the event that you have questions about what is being done or about how to get connected. Also note that this is by no means a complete list of those who will contribute to the work. In some cases, people could be added to a team to round out a skill set or area of knowledge as the work progresses. In other cases, established teams (Cabinet, Ministry Teams, etc. ...) will be called on to develop work that is conceptualized through the teams.

| <b>Income Enhancement</b>  | <b>Financial Strength</b>  | <b>Transformation</b>  |
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| Leader: Terri Mosley   | Leader: Ron Warzel   | Co-Leaders: Mark Kuritzky,<br>Pastor Knerem  |
| Bonnie Bailey<br>Darden Blake<br>Phil King<br>Jerry Krueger<br>Amy Kuntz<br>Dale Piper<br>Dave Potter<br>Alli Thellman | Dick Kiplinger<br>Wayne Mosley<br>Rudy Palenik<br>Marni Rygalski<br>Ray Treudler | Rae Alexander<br>Deb Coleman<br>Dean Firing<br>Steve Hengeli<br>Pastor Kluck<br>Stacey McNamara<br>Tom Serdar<br>Dawn Zima |

There are at least a couple of things that each member of our congregation can do to help. The first is to find opportunities to plug into the work ... whether it's suggesting an income generation idea, attending a town hall format, or talking to other members to stay informed about the progress. The second is to pray. Pray that this work continues to be guided by God, that the teams have the energy to work hard and the courage to tackle difficult issues, and that we are open to new ways of showing our gratitude for all that He has given us.

In His Name,

Steve Harris - Council President