



Guidelines for Consideration of New Initiatives

Application Form: Proposal for New Initiative

March, 2010

Adopted by Congregational Council

Background

"We believe we are called as a church to demonstrate and proclaim God's intention for creation, the reconciliation of humans to God and of human beings to each other (CMCL covenant). Our hope is to continually become a place where dreams and visions are shared, tested and released, where individual and shared ministries are blessed and nurtured, where we increasingly open ourselves to God's grace and multiplication of gifts. May we acknowledge the resources we have been given and spill them out to be shared with others." (Congregational goal work, 2001)

In our 25-year history, CMCL has shown itself to be a congregation rich in dreams and vision. Each year, there are a number of new programs or initiatives brought forth from the congregation that Council is asked to consider for official church sponsorship. Council plays the role of screening these potential programs and initiatives of the congregation for "mission fit" according to the congregational vision. There are a number of tools we use for such screening: CMCL Covenant, Vision Prayer, Vision Statement, Proposed Core Values, and the instincts and insight of council members.

Currently, there is no one clear path that new initiatives take in the effort to achieve congregation-wide adoption. Some programs have come to us via committee sponsorships, while others come with a less-formal interested group. This document is an attempt to codify the way in which how we fit new programs/initiatives into our congregational system and how we screen them for alignment to our vision as a congregation. By laying out a clear and transparent groundwork for how we process new initiatives as a Church, we hope to be able to harness more of the energy and ideas that bubble up from our congregation.

Recommendations for how CMCL Should Consider New Initiatives

- Council should be the first group to screen proposals for new initiatives, particularly if the initiative involves requests for church funds or additional work for church staff or volunteers. As we have grown in size as a congregation, we believe discernment of new initiatives by a representative group is appropriate and necessary to ensure all new programs fit our big picture priorities as a congregation.
- It is important that the process for consideration of new initiatives not be an overly challenging obstacle to vision. The process must be friendly and fair and carried out in a transparent way without unnecessary rules and procedures. To this end, all congregation members are reminded that they are welcome to attend council meetings where new initiatives are discussed.
- It is important that new initiatives have buy-in from a large number of people so that they are sustainable. Priority will be given to those initiatives that are already well defined and well organized. Individuals or groups bringing proposals should expect an interactive process with Council.
- It is not uncommon for new initiative discernment to take 3-6 months. Depending on the scope of the initiative it may require Council and possibly congregational action. Many initiatives will need to be vetted by program commission.

Areas that Council will address when considering Proposals

Vision

- *fit with CMCL 'mission'*
- *people that benefit*

Sustainability/Resource Needs

- *finances (start-up, annual maintenance costs)*
- *funding sources*
- *volunteer pool*

Impact on Current Programs

- *budget (annual, committee, etc.)*
- *leadership/staff*

Oversight/Accountability

- *responsible group/person*
- *review process*

Priorities Guiding Support of Initiatives

1. We work from an assumption of abundance – we desire to see new dreams take shape amongst us.
2. We value partnerships – initiatives that reach beyond “church walls” should also collaborate with key partners and resources in the broader community.
3. We value intergenerational opportunities – initiatives that invite cross-generational participation multiply impact on CMCLers and on the community.
4. If fundraising is needed, we urge focused, defined plans with minimal frequency.
5. We value initiatives that help us center and integrate fragmented lives.

Application Form

Proposal for New Initiative at CMCL

Approved by Congregational Council

4/28/2010

Please fill out this form and give to the Congregational Council Chair. Responses should total 2-3 pages.

Once this form has been submitted, the Council Chair will make arrangements with contact person listed below to present the proposal at an upcoming Congregational Council meeting. Typically the contact person will be invited to present the proposal in person.

6. Name of person(s) submitting this proposal to council. (If several people, then please indicate a contact person with phone number and email address.)
7. Brief description of idea/project you envision.
8. How do you see this initiative helping to bring forth the goals as stated in written CMCL documents such as CMCL Covenant, Vision Statement and Prayer, etc. (all are available on CMCL website). Who will benefit from this program/initiative?
9. What is your timeline for implementation – i.e., note the steps and approximate the time it might take to complete each step.
10. What is the expected duration of this project or initiative? Is it on-going or for a finite period of time?
11. What are the financial needs of the proposal (start-up as well as anticipated annual costs)? What funding sources do you envision? Will you need to hold fundraising events?
12. What kind of personnel support will be needed in addition to people listed above (CMCL staff, CMCL committees, volunteers from the congregation, volunteers from the greater community)?
13. Are there facilities use issues, overlapping with current programs involved?
14. What about this idea/project energizes you? Why?
- 15.