

Thanks to all of you who attended the session on policy-based governance this past Sunday. It was a terrific exchange of ideas and creative thought.

One of the things that became evident during the session is the need to clarify lines of communication between now and when we call our settled minister, while we remain in a transition phase toward policy-based governance. It was also clear that committee chairs would like to be better able to communicate, share information and coordinate their activities and mission-based goals, both at All Council Meetings and in between these meetings, and to have better ability to follow through so that terrific and creative ideas can flourish.

To address these needs, the board is delegating coordination of the All Council to the Executive Team (Ed and Sean) until such time as the settled minister is in place. The Executive Team will coordinate future All Council meetings. Committee Chairs (and others in the church if not working through a committee) should bring ideas, concerns and issues to the Executive Team, who will assist you (and if a policy issue arises will arrange for bringing it to the board). Because the Executive Team is employed full-time at the church and bears ultimate accountability for much of its activities, this will make it faster and easier for your ideas to be heard and acted upon!

Exceptions to this would be the unlikely occurrence of abusive or illegal acts by a member of the Executive Team, which would be brought to the President of the Board of Trustees. Chairs of committees specifically working on board issues (Internal Audit, Settled Minister Search Committee, Governance Task Force) and the Nominating Committee will continue to work with the board directly; although, for routine and budget matters, may find that is often most expeditious to begin by speaking with the Executive Team.

We believe this move will start us toward unlocking the full potential of the wonderful people in our church and help us focus on our new values, mission and ends. Please feel free to share this message with members of your committee and other members of the church.

Thank you again for all that you do! I look forward to our vibrant and exciting future together.