



EDITOR

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JUNE/JULY 2018

In Christ we celebrate a living faith, as we worship, care for one another, and reach out to all.

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday

10 am – Noon

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The Pastor Search Step 1

Yes, we've done a lot of talking. We've talked one to one, in council and board and committee meetings, in congregational conversations. While communication can be cumbersome and just downright difficult, speaking our truth out loud is how we begin to name important things. When we speak our truth we become more fully who we are and we see more clearly who we are called to become. For these reasons and many more, we are simply not done talking.

Our speaking together will begin to take on new shape during the summer months. As you read this a Core Team of folks are being trained in an amazing process called Appreciative Inquiry. This process, which we discussed at our last Congregational Conversation, is more a journey as a process and in the end it will make the process of calling your next pastor more clear. It will make a lot of things more clear.

There is more detail in this newsletter about the Appreciative Inquiry Process itself. What everyone needs to know right now is that this Core Team will be contacting you and inviting you into a conversation. Again, I know there has been a lot of talking already. But these conversations - interviews really - are specifically designed to help you name what about this place is life giving to you. You will be asked to identify some core, foundational experiences you have had in this community of faith. You will tell your story about being at Edwards. Our goal is to pull together those stories in a way that gives this congregation clear direction going forward.

It truly is a conversation worth having.

You will receive an invitation from one of our Core Team (they are listed below) yet in June and be invited to participate in the interviews. These one to one conversations will take place over the course of the summer. We will then gather in the fall to share the results with all of you. Thank you in advance for participating!

Your Core Team:

Brian Foy, Carol Ogletree, Paul Petherick, Mandy Harvey, Geri Dulaney, Dave Reinders, Sandy Reinders, Lyle Stratton, Marilyn Riedesel, Robert Riedesel, Shirley Johnson, and Van Lewis.

Getting Familiar with Appreciative Inquiry

What problems are you having? What is working around here?

These two questions underline the difference between traditional change theory and Appreciative Inquiry (AI). The traditional process for preparing for a pastor includes a time of looking at all the things a congregation is doing “wrong” or in unhelpful ways and then changing them. Basically, we look for the problem, do a diagnosis and then find a solution. The focus is on what’s wrong or broken. What we now know, is that looking at problems tends to amplify them. Once amplified, problems are difficult to “fix”. They seem to just keep occurring.

Appreciative Inquiry suggests that we look instead at what is working in an organization... that we appreciate it the way we might appreciate a work of art. Through a process that begins with the Appreciative Interview, participants recall motivating moments of success which creates a new energy that is positive and synergistic. It creates an energy we want to experience more of together.

We will keep educating on AI as we go but below are few foundational assumptions that make AI work.

1. In every society, organization, or group, something works.
2. What we focus on becomes our reality.
3. Reality is created in the moment, and there are multiple realities.
4. The act of asking questions of an organization or group influences the group in some way.
5. People have more confidence and comfort to journey to the future when they carry forward parts of the past.
6. If we carry parts of the past forward, they should be what is best about the past.
7. It is important to value differences
8. The language we use creates our reality.

One last thought to ponder... the underlying assumption for the problem-solving model is how we can do better by doing less of what we don’t do well. In AI, we look at what we have done well and how we can do those things more.

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) versus Problem Solving

<i>Problem Solving Focus</i>	AI Focus
Doing less of something we do not do well	Doing more of what works
“Felt need” Identification of a problem	Appreciating and valuing the best of “what is”
Analysis of causes	Envisioning “what might be”
Analysis of possible solutions	Dialoguing “what should be”
Action planning (Treatment)	Innovating “what will be”
<i>Basic Assumption: an organization is a problem to be solved</i>	Basic Assumption: an organization is a mystery to be embraced

Adapted from Cooperrider and Srivastva (1987)

Fellowship Opportunities

Celebrate With Us - Open and Affirming Sunday

Sunday June 10th we will be celebrating Open and Affirming Sunday at Edwards. Below is some information about Open and Affirming at Edwards as well as information about QC Pride in June.

In 2009, Edwards UCC began the task of parish assessment and renewal. As part of that program a task group was formed to consider registering the parish with the United Church of Christ Coalition as “Open and Affirming” (ONA). This was a topic that had been considered for years, but had not quite gotten the beyond the debating stage. So a process for discernment was mapped out. Edwards was registered as Open and Affirming in 2010.

We know that there are those in need of a place where they are welcomed and can worship and find community in safety. Our hope is that being registered on the national Open and Affirming list will give further voice to our call to them. Below is the ONA Statement we adopted.

Edwards Congregational U.C.C. Open and Affirming Statement

Because we believe that all people are created in God’s image and thus are blessed and loved equally by God and because love is a unifying and strengthening force within our Christian faith, Edwards Congregational United Church of Christ, hereby recognizes and names itself an Open and Affirming Christian community, actively expressing Jesus’ inclusive embrace of all people.

As we seek to live out our mission to live Christ’s compassion and promote justice, healing, and wholeness of life, we welcome into our community persons of every gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, mental and physical ability, age, ethnicity, nationality, economic and social status, faith background, marital standing and family structure; and, we invite them to share in the life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

If you would like to support your LGBTQI brothers and sisters, June is the month to show up! The Quad Cities will be celebrating Pride Month all week. Events include a Streetfest June 1-2, and Family Day June 3, with the festivities continuing all week. Check out QC Pride on Facebook for more details.

JUNE 17

Please join us after after worship fellowship, coffee and our Potluck. Meat will be provided. You may bring your favorite dish or dessert to share. We look forward to seeing you!

BIRDIES FOR CHARITY - Deadline is July 13

The Birdies for Charity Fund supports the continuing efforts of the John Deere Classic. You may pick up pledge forms in the narthex or church office. Please support our Church by pledging.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR JULY EDWARDS CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION

Our next Conversations will take place again during the Coffee Hour. Here are the dates;

- **July 15, 11:30 am** - following worship along with our **Potluck**.

We will continue our interim dialogue so grab a plate and weigh in on what we want in our next Pastor. Everyone is welcome!

WOMEN'S NIGHT OUT – June 21 & July 19

All ladies from Edwards are welcome for an evening of food, friendship and a laugh or two.

- **Dinner in June** is at **Thunder Bay Grille, on Brady Street in Davenport**, at 6 pm.
- **Dinner in July** will take place at **Barb Bleedorn's house on July 19**. Please join us for dinner and fellowship.

BOARD & COUNCIL MEETINGS –

- **June 12**
- **July 10**

Our next scheduled meetings will be on Tuesday, June 12 and Tuesday July 10. All Board meetings are 6:30 pm and the Council meets at 7:30 pm. All Edwards members are encouraged to attend.

BACK BAY MISSION - Join us! The Time is Right for You to Represent Edwards and Serve at Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi!

Have you been hesitant about going to Back Bay Mission? Well, our week of service on behalf of the UCC Mission in Biloxi is not all about “nails and paint” to build/rehab houses! Volunteers to Back Bay Mission also help prepare and serve meals at the Loaves and Fishes meal site and work in the mission's Micah Center, a day shelter for homeless guests. (And the best kept secret is that we have a great time being together, too!)

This year's trip takes place **Saturday, October 13 - Sunday, October 21, 2018**. You can indicate your interest in being a part of this year's team by signing up on the clipboard in the narthex. You should know that Back Bay Mission raised their per person fee to \$250 to attend their work camp and stay in their campus housing, but thanks to various generous donations (including the donations from our Easter breakfast and Pizza Ranch fundraisers), we will maintain our per person fee at **\$300** as has been the fee since 2015. Your payment is due to Julie Henke by **Tuesday, July 31, 2018**. The fee covers the cost of meals taken in the mission house, lodging and the cost of gas while traveling to Biloxi and back, and the \$250 fee that the mission charges for tools usage and for comfortable lodging in the Mission house.

And don't let the cost keep you from going! Scholarships (full or partial) are available. Contact Julie Henke so that you may complete a scholarship application. Completed applications are due back to Julie by **Sunday, July 1, 2018**. And remember that you can be sponsored financially by your employer, family, or friends! Just ask them – you might be surprised at their willingness to support you!

But if traveling to Mississippi isn't for you, remember that your prayers, cookies/kringles, and financial support of our scholarship fund are also key to the success of this mission!

ALL members and friends of Edwards have a way to SERVE Back Bay Mission!

Important Dates:

2018 Scholarship applications **due:** Sunday, July 1, 2018 (to Julie Henke)

2018 trip fees **due:** Tuesday, July 31, 2018 (to Julie Henke)

***2019 trip: Saturday, October 12 – Sunday, October 20, 2019**

Thank You's

- **Garage Sale** – Thank you to **Tom Kenneke** and the **Donuts & Hammers group** for the moving, delivery and heavy lifting of all the items we had. Also, to **all those who helped with the sale**. We couldn't have done it without you!
- **Thank you** to all those volunteers who assisted with our Blessings in a Backpack to Eisenhower school students. We value your time and help!

- **Thank you** – from Churches United of the Quad Cities for our monetary gift of \$455 to CareLINK and CROP Walk in April. This generous gift from a valued Member Church and partner in service to our mission and ministries helps us nurture and strengthen those most in need in our community through the grace and blessing of God’s love. ~“Thank you for your generous gift”

Congratulations

To Danielle King on the birth of her daughter Sawyer!



EDWARDS - Healthcare POA (Medical Power of Attorney Information

Edwards’ members are encouraged to review and keep a current copy of their Medical Power of Attorney in a safe, secure place. Members may also keep a copy of their POA on file at the Church. Often times, the Pastor may be the one to receive a call from the hospital when a member is in extremely ill health or, has passed. Keeping a POA on file at the Church can help. Please look at your existing form and if you would like, you may keep a copy here, in the Office, at Edwards.

Celebrating June Birthdays – Enjoy your day!

6-2; Christie Engelman, 8 Susan Melhus-Lee, 14 Anita Dietz, 14 Annette Dietz, 14 Erica Schroeder, 16 Marcie Phillis, 16 Angela Reier, 17 Kristin Vike-Steinich, 21 Sharon Wildemuth, 23 Jason Beitzel, 24 Macy Revels, 25 Cathie Miller, 25 Nathaniel Augspurger, 26 Bill Coker, 30 Cathy Wetzel. ***Happy Birthday to all!***



Celebrating July Birthdays – Enjoy your day!

1 Rob Tubbs, 2 Joyce Paustian, 5 Chris Kenneke, 5 Ian Beck, 5 Madeline Tesch, 6 Evan Crawford, 6 Grace Gephart, 8 Mandy Harvey, 8 Dick Werner, 9 Rosie Harvey, 9 Katrina Vike, 11 David Lohmann, 11 Torri Vande Zande, 13 Mary Hein, 14 Lou Wren, 15 Vonnie King, 15 D. Slack, 16 Frances Sanders, 17 Jean Lucas, 17 Katie Van Blair, 18 Paul Petherick, 19 Linda Dorrance, 20 Jack King, 21 Nikki Keraus, 21 James Stuhler, 22 Tracey Hustad, 24 Carolyn Walters, 24 Dick Dulaney, 24 Gail McPike, 25 Curly Curl, 26 Marty Schlabach, 28 Brian Dugan, 28 Lisa Westbrooks, 29 George Kovacs.



Please Keep In Your Prayers:

Due to privacy issues we no longer publish names on the website version of the Edwards Editor.

If you are hospitalized and would like a visit from an Edwards caregiver, please let Brian Dugan, our Caregiver Coordinator know, at 563-275-8520.

Mission & Learning Opportunities:

CHILDREN’S SERMONS – FOR THE SUMMER

We will not be having the Children’s Sermons in worship after May 20. We will continue to have the children’s **Art-Space** every third Sunday during June, July and August.

Open and Affirming (ONA)

What is ONA?

The process by which organizations and settings in the United Church of Christ may declare themselves welcome to and affirming of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons in the full life and ministry of the church.

We already say that we welcome everyone. Why do we need to develop a specific statement?

Every church says that it welcomes everyone. Unfortunately, too many lesbian/gay/bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) people and their families live with the painful reality of having been told that “everyone” is welcome, only to discover that it didn’t really include them. The same is true for persons with disabilities or single-parent families or people of differing racial/ethnic origins from what is dominant in a congregation. An Open and Affirming Statement clarifies who is included in “everyone”, and specifically welcomes persons who are too often excluded from the church community. It proclaims that God’s love and the Spirit’s power are for people of every color, age, ethnicity, identity, gender, sexual orientation, economic status or ability.

How is an ONA Statement different from a nondiscrimination statement?

While an Open and Affirming statement IS a statement about nondiscrimination, it also specifically conveys an attitude of welcome and invitation to all persons who may feel excluded from the church community.