MINUTES OF THE LLDC MEETING, AUGUST 13, 2020

Present: Perry Beider, Josh Blinder (Board liaison), Adam Briskin-Limehouse, Lyn Cox (Interim Leader), Lydia Morris Fettig

Date for the fall Membership Meeting

The LLDC agreed to the Board’s proposal that the fall meeting be held on November 1st, with October 25th as the backup date if there proved to be a conflict on November 1st.

Changes to the Election Procedures document

The group agreed on the set of changes to the Election Procedures document to be provided to the WES membership, including the changes made since the last meeting to accommodate the switch to ranked-choice voting. After the meeting, Perry noticed that the document did not specify the timing for the LLDC to notify the membership of election results; he drafted a provision to address that and sent an email to the other LLDC members for review.

Establishment of a new WES parents’ group

Lydia reported that there is interest on the part of some WES members who participate in the Fabulous Ethical Mothers (FEMS) group, which is no longer affiliated with WES, in the creation of a new parents’ group at WES; she proposed that the LLDC could assist in the recruitment of one or more leaders for the new group. Adam voiced his desire that a new group be open to parents of all gender identities. Perry, Adam, and Josh expressed views that helping a new group get off the ground was outside of the LLDC’s mission. Lyn said that she would have a staff member contact two or three people identified by Lydia about possible next steps toward formation of such a group.

Mission and composition of the LLDC

Perry asked Lyn for her perspective on whether the mission of the LLDC spelled out in the WES constitution is too broad, in light of the group’s poor track record of contributing to lay leader development in its seven-year existence and a UUA training that emphasized the importance of personal relationships with individual lay leaders. In Lyn’s view, peer connections are important in identifying and developing lay leaders, but the LLDC as presently constituted is too small for the scope of its mission. She suggested the creation of a (non-elected) team of WES members (perhaps a Lay Leadership Council) who could be asked to assist the LLDC on specific activities, such as attending the Path to Membership class to talk about leadership opportunities at WES.

Lydia asked Lyn for her perspective on whether WES’s clergy Leaders should be members of the LLDC, as currently specified in the constitution, in light of a UUA training that she and Kate Lang attended, in which they heard about alternative models used by other congregations. Lyn agreed with the current LLDC practice of Leaders absenting themselves from discussions of candidates, with the Leader screening a list of potential candidates provided by the lay members of the committee. In Lyn’s view, the current scope of the LLDC includes a number of areas of responsibility that are best addressed in partnership between the lay members of the committee and the Leader, and an amendment to the Constitution to remove the Leader from the LLDC would be premature. Discussion of this issue will continue at a subsequent meeting.

Recruitment of Statement of Purpose readers

The group agreed to Perry’s request that the LLDC relinquish the responsibility it took on in March to find the WES members to read the Statement of Purpose at each week’s platform.

The fall LLDC election

In a previous email to the group, Perry had announced that he will leave the LLDC a year early to make himself eligible for consideration for the Leader Search Committee. Lydia expressed concerns over that decision, noting that Adam would be the only continuing elected member and that Josh had become the new Board liaison only last month. Perry acknowledged that having two vacancies to fill raised the stakes for the recruitment of excellent candidates, and expressed his view that the LLDC’s role in the selection of the people to serve on the Leader Search Committee would make serving on the LLDC in the coming year particularly attractive.

Next meeting

The group agreed to meet again on Monday, August 24th, to identify people to approach about running for the LLDC this fall.