

SPIRIT OF JOY NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

MUTUAL MINISTRY

One aspect of creating and maintaining a healthy congregation, as well as a part of our Spirit of Joy Vision/Mission Plan, is creating a Mutual Ministry Committee. We will be doing this with the guidance of Malcolm Hoffman, who has helped institute this ministry in other places.

The term “mutual ministry” recognizes that the Church’s ministry is the mutual concern of both the laity and the pastor. It encourages us to move away from a primary focus on the ministry of the ordained clergy alone. It includes all the people of God in mutual work of ministry. There is one ministry in Christ and all baptized people participate in it.

Goals for the Mutual Ministry Committee are:

1. Evaluate how effectively the goals of the congregation are being met for both ministry within the congregation and to the world.
2. Dialogue about perceptions and concerns within the congregation. The mutual ministry is NOT a complaint committee, but, it seeks to find ways for pastor, other leaders, and congregation to work together for the sake of the Gospel.
3. Address conflicts among members that may affect the congregation’s ministry, as well as between members of the congregation and the pastor.
4. Serve as a resource of support for the pastor at all times, but especially in times of personal or professional stress.
5. Support the pastor’s need for spiritual self-care, compensation, sabbaticals, and continuing education.
6. The Mutual Ministry Committee is alert to the early warning signs of misunderstanding within the congregation that may eventually lead to conflict.

The Mutual Ministry Committee will be comprised of 6 members, appointed by the pastor and congregational chair/president, to serve two year staggered terms. The committee will organize itself with a chair/convener and a recorder. Accountability will be accomplished through regular reports to the steering committee. On the other hand, the nature of the committee requires that the details of the meetings and its discussions are matters of utmost confidentiality.

The expected results of forming this committee is that the skills and talents of the pastor will be enhanced, but also that Spirit of Joy’s mission efforts will be strengthened, and in all probability, multiplied.

Pastor Hoffman will be sharing information about the committee and its work during worship on October 28 as well as November 11.