

June 2009

Website Ministry Team

This month has seen great progress for the Website Ministry Team (Web MT). Pam Larson helped us by searching for several people with unique skills from our skills database. Rob Littler volunteered to co-chair the team and has been instrumental in building the membership of this group, as well as leading the In, Up, and Out activities. Pastor Dave and Tom Hardin helped us by sharing historical research and information about the current state of our website and coaching Rob and me on In, Up, and Out. Miranda Kurtt, our Communications Coordinator, has been in constant contact with me, has met with Rob and me on various occasions, and has been our staff single point of contact.

The current team consists of these members: Matt Carnahan, Rob Littler, Paul Willits, Brent Niland, Michael Niland, Chad Thompson, Ellen Thompson, Joel Anderson. We've also identified other folks who we will ask to help with front-page design or flash development. Miranda is our staff contact, and there are several other staff who are interested in consulting as needed.

Web MT met on May 26 to share the history about why we were evaluating our website and discuss what features and functionality is desired that is not possible under our current contract with Elexio. We did some research and looked at multiple options: changing nothing, raising funds to have someone else build us a first class site, and building our own site. We took home the action item to research at least one option per member and reconvened on June 2 to discuss the options and make a recommendation.

As of the June 9 Council meeting, we are recommending that we contract with an Internet service provider to host our site. This will cost around \$100 per year. We will use Drupal, which is a free and open source modular framework and content management system, to build the site. There may be some additional costs for software, but we foresee spending less and engaging our members in our website maintenance more as we move forward with this solution. Should the budget increase incrementally a couple of years down the road, there are several more expensive options that we can recommend to quickly upgrade our site with less of an effort from the congregation.

On June 17, Web MT will build the wireframe of the website under the leadership of Brent Niland. The following meeting will be focused on creating a meaningful front page that delivers the message of Faith Lutheran Church. I will be taking more of a back seat on Web MT as I work to build a communication plan for the current year and long term.