



WESTROCK COUNCIL

Newsletter

March 2016

Council Vision Statement ~ Our vision is for the WestRock Council to be an effective and authentic team that represents the WestRock community, and for the Council members to feel energized, joyful, and honored to be on the Council.

OUR NEW NAME: FROM WESTROCK TO BELVEDERE FAMILY CHURCH

It's official, or at least will be in April. It was not as easy as you might think! The majority who took the name change survey were happy with the idea of a new name.

However, the Council took extra care to listen to some thoughtful reservations about our name change. Rev. Kone met with several people that had expressed objections. Kester Wilkening drafted a memorandum and detailed name change plan that was reviewed by all of our community leadership: Rev. Kone, paid staff, the Council, and volunteer leaders.

Much effort was made to check and decide on details related to legal and banking issues. But after all this, we feel very happy to take on a new name with a rich, spiritual history and meaning: the Belvedere Family Church! The name change will take effect on April 16, with instructions about check-writing two weeks prior.

WESTROCK SURVEY: IMPLEMENTATIONS IN THE MAKING

As you may know, the Council initiated the Annual WestRock Survey to garner feedback from the community on our strengths and areas that need improvement.

Rev. Clarke, the survey coordinator, headed up the follow up meeting on February 16th. Rev. Clarke and Kester sorted the survey comments into categories specific to each ministry area. It was interesting and insightful to see how the community sees itself.

"But what we do with this?" is the important question. And there is a plan! On February 16th, each ministry team was given the feedback specific to them. The ministry teams will meet and decide on their objectives, based on the newly articulated needs. On April 16th, the community leadership will be meeting again to discuss each committee's progress with our goals.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS Our next Council [business meeting](#) is scheduled for **Thursday March 24th**, from 7:30 to 9:30pm, at the White House. We will also be holding a priority [vision meeting](#) on **Saturday March 26th**, at 8:30am, at the White House. (Business meetings focus primarily on external organizational affairs, whereas the focus at Vision meetings is primarily on making goals and future plans for our community.)

March 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR VISITORS: Visitors are very welcome - but please be aware that our agenda is usually very full. If visitors would like to suggest an issue to be discussed or to be given time to express an opinion, they should contact the council (any council member) at least one week before the meeting.

Thank you Rev. Daryl Clarke and Kenshin Furuta for your guest attendance at our February Business Meeting!



Kester Wilkening
WestRock Council Chairperson

Lynn Walsh
Vice Chairperson & Small Groups Committee

Peter Reiner
Vice Chairperson & Sunday Service Committee

Justin Okamoto
Secretary & Outreach Committee

Jessica Sattinger
Treasurer & Finance Committee

Steve Honey
Council & Facilities Committee

Akiko Morris
Council & Education Committee

Elisa Hack
Council & Member Care Committee

The WestRock Council welcomes your input! please email your comments, questions or suggestions to wrcouncil@googlegroups.com

GETTING MORE DYNAMIC IN OUR GOVERNANCE

As you may recall, on January 17 over 50 people attended the introduction to Sociocracy or Dynamic Governance presented by Kester Wilkening. Sociocracy is a system of governance using consent decision making and an organizational structure with a built in a feedback system.

Due to the interest expressed from that session, Kester gave a follow up presentation to 15 people including all the Council members on February 23rd, just before our regular council meeting. He presented an overview of many aspects of "Dynamic Governance" such as governing by consent.

In the discussion, many recognized the value of structuring meetings and organizations in a way that promotes feedback. For instance, even though the majority often may rule, sometimes one person's viewpoint makes a difference for the best policy decision. This method may help us review the governing organization of our own community and improve the interaction in meetings and between the different committees. We looking forward to learning and applying some sociocratic principles to become more a effective and dynamic council and community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS BLITZ

Each Council member is responsible for one of the seven committees: Education (Akiko Morris) , Small Group (Lynn Walsh), Family/Member Care (Elisa Hack), Outreach (Justin Okamoto), Sunday Service (Peter Reiner), Facilities (Steve Honey) and Finance (Jessica Sattinger). During every council meeting, a report is given from each committee. Some highlights from the reports this month were:

Ideas were presented to create Sunday service and music that appeal to our young adults and the formation of sub-groups within the Sunday Service Committee to manage responsibilities better. This is a very active committee!

The Small Group committee is planning with Rev. Kone to have a Sunday Service in April focused on the value of small groups for church growth. A training for small group leaders will be organized after this.

Please note: these committees are important for church vitality. If you have an interest in joining one of the committees, please contact the council member. Your contribution will make a difference!

CAMP SUNRISE MOVING AHEAD Thanks go to the extra effort of Kenshin Furuta, who updated the Council on the progress in improving the financial and management situation of Camp Sunrise. We are grateful that Kenshin and Danso Sawamukai have agreed to be the WestRock representatives on the Camp Sunrise Board. There is a serious need to increase the use and income made at this venue.

The board is looking for a Marketing Director to vamp up our marketing and business. Also it would be good to find Junior Directors/Interns to learn from Debbie Grodner, Camp Director. Please keep these positions in mind and if you know of someone, contact Kenshin or Danso. Finally the board and council believes involving the UC Youth Ministry more in summer camp will help draw more campers, which will strengthen the camp.

Overall Camp Sunrise is a beautiful Blessing, unique to our community, calling for us to come enjoy God's creation. We are grateful for those that have taken responsibility to protect and promote it.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION IS SWEET! We want to give special thanks to Elisa Hack for organizing the Volunteer Pancake Breakfast on February 6th! Also thank you to Kester and Akiko Morris for helping to make it happen. This feast was designed especially to thank many of you that volunteer your time and talent to improve our community. We will be having another one in the Fall, if you are volunteering we would love to see you there! It is nice for volunteers to receive some appreciation of substance — with maple syrup on top!

