

2025 January Stewards Minutes

SEEKERS CHURCH

Final Stewards Minutes

January 12, 2025 (Zoom)

Present: Marjory Bankson, Peter Bankson, Kolya Braun-Greiner (meditation), Ken Burton, Cynthia Dahlin, Joan Dodge, David Lloyd, Jeanne Marcus (recorder), Sandra Miller, John Morris, Trish Nemore, Brenda Seat, Keith Seat, Deborah Sokolove (moderator), Jacqie Wallen, Glen Yakushiji.

Absent: Judy Lantz

Housekeeping: Stewards will meet on Sunday, February 9 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm on Zoom.

Moderator: Sandra

Recorder: Trish

Meditation: Cynthia

Meditation: Kolya Braun-Greiner

\Stewards' 2025 Calendar

A draft of the Stewards' 2025 calendar was presented, including changes to starting and ending times. As proposed, all meetings would begin at 4:30 p.m. Ending time for Zoom meetings would be 6:30 p.m., and in-person meetings would end at 7 p.m. In-person dinners will return to being pot-luck.

The draft was amended to include the annual election of officers at the December meeting.

The proposal, as amended, was approved by unanimous consent.

SLT invited Stewards to make observations of emerging issues, and suggestions for potential future agenda items by sending them to SLT. In a brief

discussion, a number of potential ideas were suggested and duly noted by SLT.

SLT Report

Jacqie reporting: Margreta left the Servant Leadership Team, effective January 1. The three remaining members, Trish, Jacqie and John, are comfortable with the present size of the group and are feeling no urgent need to recruit another member. But, if any Steward is feeling a call to join SLT, the SLT would welcome a new member. Jacqie read a copy of the statement on the role of SLT in Seekers. (copy is attached to these minutes.)

To inform Stewards of what the process of joining the SLT might look like, John shared information about his personal process of deciding for membership, and the group process for his moving onto the team. the C of S quarterly magazine, Callings; and also of its Inward/Outward weekly scriptural column.

Exploring our commitment to Youth and Children

A key commitment of Seekers Church from its founding has been supporting participation by people of all ages, including children and youth. Stewards were divided into four Zoom break-out groups for an initial exploration around whether Seekers Church feels a continued commitment to this component of its call.

QUESTION ASKED: "Are we still committed to participation by people of all ages, including Children and Youth?"

THEMES IN STEWARDS' RESPONSES

A commitment to including children and youth has been an important part of Seekers Church since our very formation. We want to be open and welcoming to

people of all ages coming toward us.

We have had a few families with children in recent services, and the new housing around us could mean more children in Seekers.

Many of us have important memories of the periods when Seekers had a large number of families with children who were part of the church. We can draw on that history.

Many of us agreed that we still have a commitment to include children & youth, at least in the abstract.

2] There are questions about important limits to Seekers capacity to embody a more robust children's program:

- We are an ageing church: we welcome children, but don't have programming

- There are limits to number of individuals with time, energy, and desire to design exciting programming, or to teach children and youth.

- Our few families with children don't show up consistently, or they participate only by

Zoom, making teacher-kid relationship hard to create and sustain

- We have some yearning to address these questions: but may not have sufficient energy to do it.

3] Chicken-or Egg dilemmas:

- Do children come first? Or the program to attract children?

- To have children with us, don't we first have to have young adults who have or will

have children? Then how do we increase their numbers? A few committed families would

create impetus to restart programming for children.

4] Broader cultural issues:

- Kids are overprogrammed, including having sports on Sunday

mornings. Parents will

have to want to block off Sunday mornings for Church.

–Church of the Saviour greatest growth was during a period of American Christianity

which encouraged and supported models of faith that encouraged and supported more

active individual, family, and collective engagement with church; and also valued

ministries for social change. Currently American Christianity tends to a consumerist ,

uniform evangelical approach.

–Do we know what now attracts young adults (with or without children) to move from

visiting to becoming committed to a church community? What is wanted or needed from

a church? Have we asked young people? Would we want to, or be able to, meet those

wants and needs?

5] Strategies for moving toward more involvement with children:

–Involve current parents of children in our discussions. Ask other churches how they work with children.

– Start Children's word with an object the children could see and hold, and the leader would then link the object with gospel story.

–Develop links between the word for the children in worship and the activities in the

Children's room afterward. Call on Seekers' members to share with the children their own creativity and expertise in making things.

– provide coaching/encouragement for adults in linking objects to the biblical

story. Watch that content for children is not too intellectual

–Consider incorporating children in the entirety of worship. While this would change the

nature of our worship (e.g., losing silence), it could bring

back the interactive services

that engaged all of us

–Develop series or topics that attract youth—such as the environment.

Pastoral Concerns

Steward sharing: Dave Lloyd and Margreta Silverstone

Soul talk

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1: STEWARDS' 2025 CALENDAR

SEEKERS CHURCH

Current Stewards Members: 2025
Margreta (1-07) David (1-15)
Brenda (1-15) Cynthia (1-24) Joan (2-10) Kolya (2-12)
Peter (3-08) Jeanne (3-09) Glen (4-04) Deborah (4-14)
Judy (5-02) John (6-23) Trish (7-17) Ken (8-10) Keith (8-15)
Marjory (10-30) Jacqie (10-31) Sandra (11-20)

Stewards Version As of January 12, 2025

A Christian Community

In the Tradition of Church of the Saviour

STEWARDS' 2025 CALENDAR

January (Meet January 12th @ 4:00 – 6:00 PM on zoom)

Potential Steward Agenda Items Hybrid worship/hybrid church Outreach ideas Welcoming newcomers

Stewards Sharing: Margreta and David

SLT Report

Consideration of how we support our children

Pastoral Concerns

Ecumenical Council Meeting:

January 12, 2025

February (Meet February 9th @ 4:30 – 6:30 PM on zoom)

Stewards Sharing: Joan and Cynthia

Worship report from Celebration Circle

2024 Financial Report (FOG)

Pastoral Concerns

March (Meet March 9th @ 4:30 – 7:00 PM in person – Daylight Savings Time begins today)

Steward Sharing: Peter and Kolya

2025 Retreat Opportunities

Rolling Ridge/ Stillpoint Report

Pastoral Concerns

Ecumenical Council Meeting:

March 9, 2025

April (Meet April 13th @ 4:30 – 7:00 PM in person)

Steward Sharing: Glen and Jeanne

2024 Building report from Time & Space

Ministry Team Updates-REJMT and Creature Kind

Pastoral Concerns

Silent Retreat-May 2-4, 2025

Easter is April 20, 2025

May (Meet May 11th @ 4:30 – 7:00 PM in person)

Stewards Sharing: Deborah and Judy

Bokamoso Update

Takoma Park Street Festival Participation
Planning

Report from Ecumenical Council
meeting

Pastoral Concerns

Ecumenical Council Meeting:
May 11, 2025

June (Meet June 8th @ 4:30 – 7:00 PM in person)

Steward Sharing: John

Community Review (SLT)

[OMG report re new people]

Pastoral Concerns

[Men's Retreat ?]

July (Meet July 13th @ 4:30 – 7:00 PM in person)

Steward Sharing: Trish

FOG Update – mid-year report

Pastoral Concerns

August (Meet August 10th @ 4:30 – 7:00 PM in person)

Stewards Sharing: Ken and Keith

Pastoral Concerns

September (Meet September 14th @ 4:30- 7:00 PM in person)

No Stewards Sharing

School of Christian Growth Schedule for 2025/2026 (Learners &
Teachers)

[Sunday School for the new school year]

Report from Ecumenical Council meeting

Pastoral Concerns

Ecumenical Council meeting

September 14, 2025.

Silent Retreat: September

26-28, 2025

Takoma Park Street Festival

October 5, 2025

October (Meet October 12th @ 4:30 – 7:00 PM in person)

Stewards Sharing: Jacqie and Marjory

Budget Input for 2025

Recommitment Review by Stewards

Debrief from Takoma Park Street Festival

Pastoral Concerns

RECOMMITMENT SUNDAY October

19, 2025

Return to Standard Time on

November 2, 2025

November (Meet November 9th @ 4:30 – 6:30 PM on zoom)

Stewards Sharing: Sandra

2026 Budget: Draft Review- FOG

2026 Calendar- Draft Review

Report from Ecumenical Council meeting

Pastoral Concerns

Ecumenical Council meeting:

November 9, 2025

December (Meet December 14th @ 4:30 – 7:00 PM in person)

No Stewards Sharing

2026 Budget Approval

2026 Calendar Approval

Election of Board members for 2026

Celebration

ATTACHMENT 2: The Role of SLT in Seekers

Listening in to everyone in the community to know what's going on, what individuals' needs, questions, and yearnings are.

Keeping an eye on the whole – through listening and relationships throughout the community with a special focus on the margins and those not in mission groups

Pastoring – Identifying pastoral concerns and reporting them to Stewards. Providing spiritual guidance, especially to those not in mission groups,

Performing practical/administrative tasks on behalf of Stewards – preparing Stewards agendas and planning meetings; administering the Holy Spirit Fund Christmas funds; acting as an Executive Committee on those rare occasions when a quick decision is needed.

“Holding the tension between solidity and freshness” (Sonya Dyer's phrase) so that we grow and embrace newness and the ideas of newcomers even as we hold the central core of who we are.

Evoking gifts of others in the community and encouraging them to use them to benefit church life.