

Congregational Life Standing Leadership Group
Submitted by: Suzanne Cole

List of the members currently serving on your ministry or leadership team:

- Bobbie Benjamin; Suzanne Cole, chair; Nancy Fleming; Toni Pavolini; Sue Scaff; Jackie Williams

As you look at the goals you had planned for 2023, what were you able to accomplish?
Please be as specific as possible.

1. Congregational Survey—We planned and executed a survey to solicit feedback from the congregation regarding commitment to church, especially since the pandemic. Please see attached report.
2. We held several congregation-wide fellowship events, including a spring picnic and an Anniversary Sunday potluck (fall)

How has your ministry's or leadership team's work and goals shifted throughout 2023 ?

- We originally planned to solicit information from the congregation via small gatherings (i.e. house meetings) but determined that church members may be reluctant to answer honestly about their church attendance in a group setting.
- We added to our goals for the year a reorganization of the volunteers for hosting Fellowship Hour, which took effect in January 2024. We shifted from our team rotation model to a sign-up model where individuals sign up online.

Where is your group or ministry area stuck? Do you need help in discerning who to ask to join your group or to get more involved?

We are counting on the congregation to step up and volunteer to host Fellowship Hour a few times during the course of the year. Everyone enjoys the snacks after worship each Sunday. Take a moment right now and sign up! Many hands make light work.

<http://tinyurl.com/OFRhospitality>

“Church is a potluck, not a restaurant.” – Rev Michael Roca-Caine

What has changed since returning to in-person/ hybrid ministry? How does your group imagine continuing to bridge the in-person/ hybrid gulf in 2024?

The overall goal of the Congregational Life SLG is to foster community among the members of the congregation. Hybrid ministry has made reaching that goal harder in some ways and easier in others.

- Harder—Old Firsters attend church less frequently overall (and some people attend in-person rarely). As a result, we see one another much less often than formerly, which makes it harder to develop meaningful relationships.
- Easier—Some groups within Old First benefit from hybrid opportunities. Our mid-week Zoom ministries have become a nice way for people to stay connected between Sundays. And some of our companionship groups and other ministries meet regularly via Zoom.

What do you hope to accomplish in 2024?

- We hope to continue to hold periodic fellowship opportunities. And we hope we will succeed in getting the membership to volunteer as hosts for Fellowship Hour. (Pretty please...!)
- We hope to find more ways to stay connected despite the changes in our worship habits.

What are the ways that the church can support your team in achieving your goals for the upcoming year?

SIGN UP for to host Fellowship Hour a few times this year!

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