



WESTROCK COUNCIL

Newsletter

April 2016

Council Mission Statement (2015-2017) ~ Our mission is to be a driving force for the community, and to support the Head Pastor, by establishing a clear organizational structure and thriving financial base, resulting in a vibrant, God-centered culture within our families and community.

CHANGE IS IN THE AIR: WESTROCK TO BELVEDERE FAMILY CHURCH

With the positive response of our community, starting on April 15 the WestRock Family Church officially will be become the Belvedere Family Church. It will take a while to get used to but this seems like a good fit for the rich history and location of our worship community.

In terms of writing checks for tithing or donating, don't worry, you still can. Any checks after April 15 should be addressed to "Belvedere Family Church". Please remember to include the "Family Church" so there is no chance of confusion with the Belvedere Estate. Checks written to "HSA-UWC WestRock" will still be fine.

MORE CHANGE TO THINK ABOUT: COUNCIL MEMBERS NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

Our wonderful pastor, Rev. Kone, invests an immense amount of time and prayer for the sake of our church. Obviously, we depend on him a lot. But Rev. Kone also depends on volunteers that are willing to work to create a prayerful and responsive governing body, the Council.

accept, please fill out the form and email it to the Council at wrcouncil@googlegroups.com. The deadline for submitting your nomination acceptance to the council is April 24. Yes, that is not much time, so don't let it slip by. Perhaps the time of your visitation has come!

We have handed out and emailed the nomination form which include instructions and guidelines about nominations. Please fill out the form and hand it or email it to up to four persons you are nominating, and email the Council who you have nominated so the nomination is official. The time for presenting these nominations to each person started on April 3 and will close April 17.

A team of Council members that have varied backgrounds, skills and experiences, are willing to take on responsibilities and can cooperate together have a huge impact on the well-being, management and growth of our spiritual community. The members that will remain on the council for one more year, and therefore cannot be nominated are: Kester Wilkening, Peter Reiner, Lynn Walsh and Jessica Satinger.

If you are nominated, the brief description of council tasks on the form may help you to decide if you accept the nomination or not. If you

Elections will start soon after April 24 and conclude on May 20. Thanks to Charles Patterson, our ballot will be available online as well as on paper.

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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 Satinger Treasurer & Finance Committee
Steve Honey Councilor & Facilities Committee
Akiko Morris Councilor & Education Committee
Elisa Hack Councilor & Member Care Committee

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

CAN ORGANIZED RELIGION GET ORGANIZED? YOU BET WE CAN! BFC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE DISCUSSIONS

As you may remember, thanks to Kester Wilkening, the Council has been learning to apply some benefits of Dynamic Governance to the Council. Utilizing our newly acquired understanding of good governance, healthy feed-back systems and the value of each individual's voice, the Council has been working on re-thinking our organizational structure. On March 31, Jerry Gonzalez, a certified Dynamic Governance consultant, spent an hour and half explaining this method and its application with over a dozen BFC community and Council members. (He volunteered his time and drove 3 hours from Massachusetts to share with us.)

Our focal point during that meeting was examining our organizational chart for our community. The process is helping us to think hard about the purpose of each "organ" within the body of BFC, such as Youth Ministry and Sunday Service, and then how to create symbiotic connections to the other organs and "brain" of our spiritual leadership. Our hope is to improve communication, increase community participation and avoid burn out of all involved. It is a work in progress but a worthwhile one.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETING

Our next Council [business meeting](#) is scheduled for **Thursday April 21st**, from 7:30 to 9:30pm, at the White House.



April 2016						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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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.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. KONE FOR HIS DOCTORAL RESEARCH ON AND PROMOTION OF PEACE-BUILDING!

On April 2, Rev. Kone completed a major component of his doctoral dissertation project with Unification Theological Seminary. For his doctoral research, Rev. Kone spent many, many hours over three years interviewing the Ivorian Diaspora in the New York City area. His interviewing was focused on experiences related to years of civil wars and violent conflict between Christians and Muslims in his home country of the Ivory Coast. He spoke to and heard the stories and opinions of over 50 Ivorian religious and civic leaders some of whom were on opposite sides of this brutal struggle. Rev. Kone was especially interested in exploring the need for and process of reconciliation.

The event on April 2, held at W 43rd Street, was a gala dinner program complete with colorful Ivorian decorations. The purpose was to thank all those that so generously gave their time and honest sharing in the interviews. Dressed regally in his native garb, Rev. Kone gave sincere thanks to numerous individuals. Of the 90 people present there was: the General Consult of the Ivory Coast to the UN, the President of the United African Congress and NYC Police Commissioner, a leading Imam in the community and several Christian pastors. During the program Rev. Kone conveyed his conclusions from his compiled data and analysis. Simply but profoundly, he explained the challenging discipline of seeing from another person's viewpoint was key for reconciliation and peace-building.

This simple practice can save lives, stop violence and end wars. As the Universal Peace Federation sponsored this event, Richard DeSena, President of UPF- USA gave a brief overview of Father Moon's key principles of peace-building. His summary of the importance of inter-religious dialogue, living for the sake of others, service and the family was a perfect confirmation of Rev. Kone's message. The room was filled with great affection and appreciation for Rev. Kone and inspiration about the principles he was promoting. Many want to continue working with him. We should be so very proud of our Rev. Doctor Kone!