

Comments Received about the New Policy Manual

The Board has received seventeen written submissions about its revised policy manual in response to the request for comments we made in mid-May. Your careful and thoughtful reading of the new manual will encourage us as we formally put the manual into practice.

This is the kind of dialogue with caring congregants that makes policy-based governance flourish. Our decision-making will be brought into alignment with our covenantal theology. We ask everyone to remain in conversation with us as we work toward the church we all dream of -- a future oriented church that makes a difference in people's lives.

The Board has reviewed your suggestions, as well as your criticisms, and we have thought hard again about our approach in general and about many of the individual policies. We are deeply impressed with the depth of consideration and feeling evident in your communications, and we have endeavored to consider your ideas with the same depth that you put into them.

Many of your ideas, not surprisingly, focused on some of the areas that had been the hardest for us to work through in redrafting the manual. Some of your suggestions we will be able to adopt, and some we will not. Please do not feel, if you do not see your wording in a later version, that we had any less respect for your efforts. We were instructed by all of the submissions, and all were weighed carefully and taken into account.

We are still working through exactly what to do with the actual language in the manual itself, and we are unsure when we will finish that task.

The members who gave us written comments on the new Policy Manual were: Cynthia Adcock, Sara Anderson, Kate Beysselance, Gail Curran, Diana Day, Diane Dorius, Ann Degler, Jacomina de Regt, Sally Determan, Lavona Grow, Allen Keiswetter, Jane McKeel, Sarah Munson, Chad Ohlandt, Allison Sheahan, MJ Schmelzer Hoekstra, Chris and John Sutton, and Diane Ullius. Let us know if you submitted comments and your name is not on this list, so we can make sure we have taken them into account.

Yours in faith,

The Board of Trustees