



# CHURCHES in harmony

*Transforming the lives of young adults across greater Madison, inviting them into authentic, in-person community, centered around Christ*

Newsletter – February 23, 2025

## **The Plan, Part 3: Maximize Efficiency**

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Pastor Michael Erdman

Our third objective for 2025 is to maximize efficiency. (You can read about all of our objectives in the Churches in Harmony handout, available at all our churches.)

As I have gotten to know the different Harmony congregations more intimately, I discovered a surprising truth. While we all do the same things, no two congregations do them in the same way. We all have websites, but all with completely different providers. We all have newsletters and calendars, but they are all managed in different ways. We all have church management software, but none of us use the same one. We all have boards and committees that manage church affairs, but they are all structured in different ways.

If we can unify these sorts of systems, we can accomplish the same work with less time, money, and effort. Instead of repeating the same tasks four times, we can do it once for everyone, and probably even do it better than we were before. As an added benefit, it will help us all work together, because we will already be “on the same page.”

In order to accomplish all of this, we are going to need to hire someone to manage it. We are still working on the name and job description, but for now let’s call it a Ministry Coordinator. This coordinator will have many of the same jobs as a church secretary (check the mail, print bulletins, etc.) but will also help us coordinate our efforts between the Churches in Harmony. The coordinator will spearhead the unifying of our different systems and help connect people between our congregations who are working on similar tasks.

Speaking personally, much of my time and energy now go to coordinating between the Harmony congregations (including putting this newsletter together each week!). I really look forward to having a Ministry Coordinator who manages much of that for me so that I can focus more of my time on developing other parts of our shared vision.

## **Harmony Game Night, next on Mar 4 @5:30pm at Monona**

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Pastor Michael Erdman

The next game night will be hosted by Monona. They are always on the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 5:30pm with a meal. After the food, we will play a variety of games. We encourage you to bring your own favorite board/card games to share with the group. If you can't make it for the meal, you can still join us for the games. The games usually start around 6:30pm.

## **Ash Wednesday Worship on Mar 5 @6:00pm at Monona**

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Pastor Michael Erdman

For the first time, we will be holding a combined Ash Wednesday service. It will be at Monona at 6:00pm. We hope that you will all join us that evening as we begin the solemn season of Lent by coming before the Lord in repentance and ashes.

## **Lenten Midweek Worship, starting on Mar 12 @6:00pm at St Paul**

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Pastor Michael Erdman

We will be holding joint Advent midweek worship services again this year at St Paul, starting on March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. (This is the usual time for St Paul's Wednesday evening service.) We hope that you will join us each week for a time of reflection and worship during this Lenten season.