

CL&G Minutes

Special Meeting February 24, 2015

Present: Kevin Burke, Betty Hibler, Susie Ritchie, Annriette Stolte, Rachel Small Stokes

Absent: Alice White

This was a special meeting to discuss and create a plan for integrating new/prospective members as our congregation grows. Our discussion was based on a chapter of the book "Raising the Roof" by Alice Mann.

Our Current Process:

- 1) Weekly meeting of Rev. Rachel and Susie Ritchie to discuss info from that Sunday's "pew pad" as entered by Patti Smithson on CDM and her forwarding names of those indicating either "new", "visitor", or "desire contact". Personal notes are sent newcomers, welcoming them and inviting them to the 4th Sunday Newcomers Meeting." Rev. Rachel makes contact as needed/requested. All this data is entered on a CL&G "newcomers" database, which is updated along the way, i.e. for those who attend 4th Sunday Mtg. and/or join the church; receive a visit, etc.
- 2) Monthly 4th Sunday Newcomers Meeting
- 3) Monthly 2nd Sunday Reception of New Members. Anyone joining who has not attended a 4th Sunday meeting is contacted and invited again.

Desired Expanded Framework:

- Keep the elements we have in place
- All who attend a 4th Sunday Meeting will be invited to a second gathering – Part 2 of "Explorations for New Attenders." These gatherings will be held quarterly throughout the year, inviting those from the previous three 4th Sunday meetings. This gathering will be on the 3rd Sunday afternoon of the month – tentatively set for 4 – 7 p.m., hopefully at someone's home (Susie has volunteered to host the first one on April 19) and will include conversation and dinner.
- Continue to invite new members to attend 4th Sunday Meeting, in order to move on to the 2nd session.
- As described by Alice Mann, we hope to accomplish the following with these two sessions: "Join with other newcomers in an informal exploration of the life of this church. Share great refreshments, ask questions, tell stories, share hopes, get tips about the activities you may find most meaningful."
- Order resources referred to by Alice Mann: a) a worksheet called "Discovering the Gifts of the People"; b) "Created and Called: Discovering Our Gifts for Abundant Living" – both by Jean Morris Trumbauer, Augsburg Fortress (Betty will order)
- In the future, we would like to see two additional elements open to all members/friends:

- 1) a multi-session Foundation Course exploring our faith; and 2) a series or retreat on the topic of “Releasing Your Gifts.”

Our CL&G Board is very excited and energized about implementing these ideas. But we have one big problem: Wednesday Night Live. Currently we feel that a great deal of our energy is expended on the weekly responsibility for the WNL meal. The wonderful news is that WNL has grown and prospered with the addition of Children’s Choirs rehearsing before and after the meal, bringing in many young families, as well as new folks of all ages, expanded Bell Choir members, the Youth Group, etc. So we have to come up with a new plan for WNL. We would like to turn it over to a newly formed WNL Committee – not necessary to create a new Board. Perhaps similarly, Lemonade on the Porch and Coffee in the Parlor, both following worship as the seasons change.

One more idea discussed – we have a big building which may seem somewhat intimidating to newcomers. Could we also have a First Sunday Guided Tour of the Church, for anyone interested – maybe led by a Properties Board member or other volunteer?

Other business: Kevin Burke will assume the Chair position of CL&G Board. Thank you Kevin! And due to the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 22 (4th Sunday), the March Newcomers Meeting will be on Sunday, March 29.

Next meeting: March 10.