

Christian Education Committee
Wednesday, August 29, 2007

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Eileen Denne, Nancy Hall Berens, Patrick Hunnicutt, Elizabeth O'Brien

Unable to Attend: Diane Hellmuth, Clara Beth Van de Water

1. Welcome

Eileen welcomed members to the August Christian Education Committee meeting and started the meeting with an opening prayer.

2. Update and Lessons Learned on Summer Programs

Committee members provided an update on the summer Christian Education programs. Nancy and Elizabeth said that M & M Week (June 18-22) was very successful; the 16 children who participated sang a Vivaldi piece. Nancy suggested that next year it would be helpful to get publicity on M & M Week out earlier than May. She also said that for next year we will also need to recruit new volunteers to help with crafts during M & M week.

Patrick reported that five senior highs participated in the Senior High Retreat in June to Montreat; all said they wanted to go back and Patrick was enthusiastic about making it a regular event for Westminster Youth. He said that seven middle schoolers and Meg Laubscher attended the Middle School Retreat at Masseneta. Patrick may recommend doing these Youth Conferences every other year and announce it early in the year.

2. Sept. 9 and 16 Preparations

The committee discussed the September 9 Community Fair. Also on September 9th is the Creation Station Open House and Youth Pancake breakfast. Each program area will have its own display. Nancy hopes to get a few more teachers lined up.

On September 16, committee members will need to be available to talk about the CE programs after both services. We talked about having popcorn available.

3. Fall Programs and Program Needs

Program need for Youth include with the Sept. 9 pancake breakfast; helping with retreats and the November 3 fundraiser. Patrick said he could use one or two more Senior High advisors as well.

Nancy said she has filled the first rotation for Creation Station with nine volunteers. She is recruiting by email and had training for teachers the previous week. She lost two superintendents and an assistant superintendent so needs three more volunteers plus three more teachers. On Sept. 19 she will hold teacher training for Story Telling.

Clara Beth reported via a note that she will have her own table for Sept. 9 in order to register adults for Christian Believer. She will also have a display board on adult education. She will also decorate half a bulletin board to use for adult education.

4. Christmas Pageant

Nancy reported that there was an expectation that there would be another dinner following the Children's Christmas Pageant on December 9. Eileen said she would get in touch with the Congregational Life committee to get more details.

5. Update on Director of Children's Ministries Search

Elizabeth said that all was going well with the search for the new director of Children's Ministries.

6. Next Meeting: Set up regular meeting day and time

Committee members discussed a regular meeting time prior to Session meetings and decided that the second Thursdays of the month at 7 p.m. would work. The next meeting was set for Thursday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m.

7. Closing Prayer

Eileen thanked the committee members for attending. Patrick offered the closing prayer.