

Christian Education Committee
Wednesday April 9, 2008
Meeting Minutes

Members present: Elizabeth O'Brien, Brad Buchanan, Eileen Denne, Patrick Hunnicutt, and Clara Beth Van de Water

Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer at 7:35.

Children's Ministries

Casey met with Elizabeth on March 27 to discuss her maternity leave. During Casey's twelve weeks of leave, Jennifer Larrison will be the contact for the remainder of Creation Station, and Marci Crisler will run the Morning for Moms program. Paul Stetsenko and Molly Roden will run M&M Week (Music and More), which is scheduled for June 16-20 and will feature the musical "David and the Giants." Recruiting for childcare volunteers during summer worship is complete, and Elizabeth will make calls to remind volunteers each week. Patrick added that Casey plans send out something in writing later this week summarizing her plans.

Confirmation Class

Patrick reported that nine youth attended the confirmation class retreat at Shrinemont April 5-6, where they wrote their statements of faith. Confirmation is on May 11. The confirmation dinner, to be held at 6:00, prior to the Session Meeting on April 23, will be catered by Linda Harkness, and as a new tradition, will be served by families of youth who will be going through the next confirmation class. The eleven members of this year's class are ninth graders. Next year's class will combine eighth and ninth graders. At the end of that year, Patrick will determine whether to return to having an eighth-grade confirmation class, or to skip a year and offer it to ninth graders.

Youth Sunday

Meredith Mitchell will preach on Psalm 31, from the lectionary, on Youth Sunday. A youth choir will sing.

Youth Mission Trips

Patrick will schedule a parent meeting in early June for the Senior High mission trip. Two more chaperones—one male and one female—are needed. The planned mission trip for Middle School Youth was cancelled. In its place, Patrick has planned a combined retreat and mission project during the week of July 7-13. Part of the time will be spent at Massanetta Springs, and the remainder will be spent helping low-income seniors in Marion, VA, in conjunction with a Methodist program called Project Crossroads.

Adult Education

Clara Beth reported that her planning for next year's classes is going well. She consulted the committee on the best time this spring to have Patricia Lyons teach a class on Adolescent Spirituality. Dr. Lyons is currently the chaplain at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School. The committee recommended a Sunday morning at 9:45. This class will

likely be publicized more widely than regular Sunday classes. Clara Beth was happy to hear that she will be able to resume listing her Sunday class offerings on an easel in the church entryway as a result of discussions at the last Session meeting.

Library

Elizabeth reported that the notice about the library in the monthly Chronicle was worded to comply with the WPC gift policy. Members wishing to buy books through the Amazon.com Wish List can find out about it by contacting Cathy Hunter.

Volunteer Fair

Elizabeth confirmed that volunteer recruitment for Christian education programs will not be conducted at a volunteer fair, as it was last year.

Preschool

Elizabeth shared a letter from Nedra Trahant regarding repairs needed on the fence around the preschool playground. The committee agreed that the Buildings and Grounds Committee should be consulted on how best to address these concerns. Elizabeth contacted B&G Chair Ken Niemann, who is moving forward with this issue.

CE Committee Mission Statement

Brad initiated a discussion with the committee about its role in Christian education at WPC. As staff members, Clara Beth, Patrick, and Casey plan and implement their respective education programs, and each has, or plans to have, a subcommittee for additional support. Currently, the CE Committee meets with them monthly or every other month to keep abreast of programs, then reports on and promotes programs to Session, and makes motions as needed. CE Committee members also assist on an as-needed basis with projects such as painting Creation Station, filling in as nursery or Creation Station teachers, and planning special events. The committee was asked if it should take on a more visionary role in shaping Christian education at WPC, and if the committee should set goals or standards and seek to achieve them.

Elizabeth read through some of the sections of the WPC Mission Statement (adopted by Session Feb. 22, 2006) that apply to education, and Eileen gave some background on the creation of the Mission Statement. Patrick suggested that CE Committee meetings, which largely consist of staff member reports on upcoming programs, also include a time of study or discussion of broader themes regarding Christian education. At the same time the Envisioning Task Force is seeking new direction for the church, the CE Committee could be exploring larger issues and asking deeper questions about what it means to provide Christian education. After much discussion, the committee agreed that each member should revisit the 2006 Mission Statement to determine if Christian education at WPC is in compliance with it and if any changes or additions are recommended.

Clara Beth closed the meeting with prayer at 9:30.