

DEACON HUDDLE MINUTES

March 14, 2007

The deacons met at Barbara Watts' house on March 14, 2007. Karen Blomberg and 17 deacons were present.

ROLE OF DEACONS: Karen Blomberg met with the new deacons at 7:00 pm. She said that the role of a deacon is best summed up by the Presbyterian Book of Order: "The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ." The deacons at Westminster carry out this service by serving homebound communion, delivering flowers, assisting with transportation needs of members, visiting homebound members and seniors, organizing and preparing meals for members in need, and helping with the Compassion Guild and Member Response Team. Karen explained each of the deacon duties.

DEVOTION: The "official" Deacon Huddle began at 8:00 pm. Karen began the meeting by teaching the deacons a rhythmic devotion of synchronized clapping.

MOVE BACK TO WESTMINSTER: Karen said the Westminster staff will begin to move into their new offices on the third floor in the end of March. The first service in the renovated church will be on April 1. There will only be one service- at 11:00 am. Everyone is invited to meet that day at Agudas Achim at 10:00am for a short ceremony and procession back to the church. Karen emphasized that everything will not be up and running on April 1. For example, Fellowship Hall will not be usable for several weeks and the organ will probably take many months to install.

The deacons discussed ways they could help with the transition back to the church. It was agreed that the deacons should be observant and watch for members who might be having trouble with the transition process. Deacons will possibly be asked to conduct tours of the new facility; Karen advised everyone to check their emails for information about this.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE: Karen asked the deacons to consider two positions that currently need filling within the church- a coordinator for the Compassion Guild and a participant of the Member Response Team. The Compassion Guild helps the ministers with funerals by arranging receptions and helping with other needs of bereaved families. The Member Response Team links members with resources with members with needs. Although a new committee, the MRT has already helped members find affordable housing, jobs, transportation , childcare and other necessities.

CALENDAR: The deacons discussed the Deacon Schedule for 2007/2008. A revised schedule and a list of the monthly devotions leaders are attached. Any changes to the schedule should be emailed to Barbara Watts at bwatts68@comcast.net and Tara Cain at TCain@wpc-alex.org. The meeting adjourned with a prayer. The next Deacon Huddle will be 7:00 pm April 11 at the church.