

Westminster Presbyterian Church

MINUTES OF NEW MEMBER / ASSIMILATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, June 11, 2007; 7:30 PM

Johnson Parlor

Attendees: Betsy Preston (Chair), Larry Hayward (Staff), Linc Cummings, Gail Donley, Faye Woodrow, Fitz Woodrow

Meeting called to order at 7:35 PM.

Review of logistics for new members joining on June 17: Our most recent new member class was on June 6 in the Johnson Parlor.

Attendees from that class, plus a few from prior classes, will be joining the church on Sunday, June 17. Six people will be joining that day.

The committee reviewed the preparation list for June 17 to ensure that all assignments are covered.

NOTE:

Be sure that Larry is informed ASAP of any new members joining by profession of faith or baptism so that he can incorporate appropriate elements of worship on the Sunday that they join.

Visitor Table at Coffee Hour / Lemonade on the Lawn:

We will have a special "Visitor Table" with information about Westminster at each Coffee Hour / Lemonade on the Lawn during the summer (and probably continuing into the fall). Ideally a regular group of people would "staff" this table each Sunday on a rotating basis (with 3-4 people from the group working each Sunday). We are hoping for a mix of long-time members, young adults, etc.

Cathy Smyles has begun calling people and asking them to serve as part of this group. Casey Fitzgerald has agreed to provide names of young adults that we can ask. We will have "WELCOME" nametags made for them to wear. Table needs to be set up on same side of lawn as coffee hour so that visitors are part of all that is going on and are not drawn away from the remainder of the congregation.

Greeters:

Larry also needs a dedicated group of people to assist him with greeting at the door on Sundays – a group of people who can learn to "know" the congregation, recognize the visitors, and know what is needed to help get the visitors to coffee hour and introduce them to others in the congregation. We hope to draw a couple of people to help with this each Sunday from the group who commits to assist with the "Visitor Table," again on an assigned, rotating basis.

Communications Liaison:

We have identified a need to ensure that we work closely with Communications Committee on outreach to the community – outreach that targets visitors and potential new members is different from outreach targeted to those already within our church family.

Additionally, we want to work with Communications Committee as they update the website to ensure that some updates to the visitor/new member areas of the site are included. Betsy will contact Brian Laubscher and Camden Richards to see what representation will work best (whether a Communications person should attend some of our meetings, or whether we should appoint a person to work with Communications, etc.)

Upcoming Calendar:

We reviewed the class and meeting dates scheduled through January and decided to revise some of the dates so that the schedule would be as consistent as possible from month to month (e.g. classes on first Monday and second Sunday, with Session meetings on third Sunday and committee meetings on second Monday). We were able to accomplish this to a great extent, working around a few holidays and months with heavy vacation/travel schedules. The new schedule will be provided to the church office so that the room schedule and master calendar can be updated, and will be emailed to all committee members.

- Additional Revisions to New Member Class Manual: Our manual has been updated for this year, but we will make a few more revisions so that the manual format will match our new two-session course schedule. Committee members with suggestions about manual content or format should provide them to Betsy in the next couple of weeks.
- Assimilation Activities: Cathy Smyles is now preparing new member assimilation information for Session members. We will be planning a new member brunch for the fall; plans will be discussed further at our July meeting. New ideas for assimilation are needed and welcome – please brainstorm for ideas and share them with Betsy or Cathy, or bring them to the July meeting.

Larry closed the meeting with prayer at 9:00 PM.

Next meeting: *Monday, July 9, 2007*

7:30 PM; Johnson Parlor