

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Stewardship Committee

Meeting minutes 8/6/08

Present: Frank Fraser (chair), Dave Gunter (vice chair), Molly Roden, Jane Stilmar, Carl Chidlow

Frank opened the meeting with a devotional that was used to commemorate Associate Pastor Karen Blomberg.

1. The committee reviewed some statistics on WPC giving patterns assembled by Larry Hayward and Nancy Bea. These statistics suggest that new pledges from existing members who do not currently pledge are not likely to be a significant source of new pledge income that could be used to meet our targeted increase.
2. Jane Stilmar summarized her recent article for the Chronicle concerning ways in which WPC made a successful commitment to use money raised through stewardship to make changes that would bring in younger new members (such as the hiring of Casey Fitzgerald and the improvement of the web site). Jon Butterbaugh is assigned to write the September Chronicle article.
3. Frank announced that there will be three Minutes for Mission in September in advance of the stewardship campaign. The Missions committee is going to do one of them; Donna Blackburn will give another from a new member perspective, and Frank will do the third.
4. Frank mentioned that the online pledge card is functional but that we need to have some publicity for it. It was discussed that the weekly e-gram would be an appropriate way to get the word out about online pledging, especially to those members who have joined in the last year.
5. The question arose whether we would have a brunch during or after the stewardship season to thank the congregation for their generosity. We discussed that instead of having the brunch on Pledge Sunday, we could wait until the thank you letters go out on November 14 and have the brunch the Sunday after that. That way, we can announce the results of the campaign in a short program at the brunch.
6. The committee discussed talking to small groups about the stewardship campaign during September and October. We believe this will be an effective way to reach people as they make their stewardship decisions, in the context of the small groups in Westminster that are important to them. The womens' circles and the young adults' brunch were mentioned as particular possibilities. Carl Chidlow will draw up a list of small groups so the committee members can choose at a future meeting who they will address.
7. The committee discussed pledge packet materials and what they should look like. Frank is taking ideas from committee members via e-mail and will provide drafts in September. We will finalize ideas for the pledge packet at our September meeting.

The meeting closed with a prayer.