

MINUTES
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 5, 2008

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Frank Fraser. Those in attendance were Larry Hayward, Jane Stilmar, Carl Chidlow and Donna Cramer. An opening devotional was provided by Frank.

Frank outlined his plan for the campaign, “the assurance of things hoped for” (Hebrews 11:1) which evokes hope and describes where we want to be as we wrap up the second capital campaign. All present agreed on the theme. Lois Bucher has agreed to design a logo.

Frank will write a brief announcement to be published in the Chronicle. Larry suggested that something be in the Chronicle every month. Frank’s hope is making stewardship a topic of regular discussion which could move us away from the thoughts of the annual “dreaded” Stewardship Campaign. Frank noted that the website has nothing under Stewardship and proposed that we post a statement as soon as possible. All agreed that it was important to have the subject of Stewardship on the website at all times. The hope is to make the congregation aware of the benefits of stewardship on a daily basis, not just at the time of a campaign. Having links from the Stewardship page to Missions, posting thank you notes from organizations that receive our support, posting items about how stewardship helps us have the staff we have, etc., makes people aware of all the Stewardship Campaign provides.

Frank suggested that we need to explain to the congregation why we ask them to pledge. One possibility was to address the issue by categories within the congregation rather than as a whole body. Surveying what people think of stewardship and what they would like to “use” money for might get them more interested in stewardship. Using focus groups to determine how people feel might get them more involved.

Carl suggested that we set up the payment of pledges on line, the way political campaigns do. Discussion ensued about the practicality of doing that; perhaps starting with allowing pledging on line.

During discussion of the actual pledge numbers, Jane questioned the accuracy of the numbers since it included children’s pledges. Are pledging “units” households and does the addition of the children’s pledges distort those numbers? Larry suggested that children’s pledges should be footnoted in the budget reports to reflect that fact.

The meeting was closed with a prayer.