

Minutes

St. John's Education Committee

January 9, 2007

Beth Eberhard, chairperson of the St. John's UMC Education Committee, began our new year by calling the committee meeting to order with a reading from I Corinthians. There are four new members and the two present were introduced. See the roll for attendance.

The Mission statement and scope for the education committee was discussed and reviewed, with understanding expressed by the committee members.

Past efforts were discussed under Old Business by the person who was in charge of that effort:

Jim Heffner said the St John's Academy, which met during the fall for one month with three basic classes taught, was attended by 12 people on average. We had hoped to draw people who were not regular Sunday school members, but only one person fell into that category. The committee voted to continue the Academy in March with 3 new programs. Harry Sampson has been making the coffee and Jeanne Farmer has provided the little muffins for the Sunday morning coffee house since October. It was moved from inside of Ward Hall to just outside, and people seem to be enjoying having their coffee while they fellowship. "Food" to stimulate discussion, such as the Wired Word, will be left on the table to facilitate more guided and focused discussion.

Tina Frazier has worked so hard to get the required number of teachers to keep the O.A.R.S. (rotational Sunday School for 1st-6th graders) moving forward. All is going well, except that church members seem to need more information so that they will agree to teach for six week sessions. There has been a pulpit call for teachers (1 response!) and a letter will be sent very soon to the whole membership.

Beth Eberhard reported that registration is going well for the Poverty Seminar which will be held at our church on January 20th. She has done a very thorough job advertising that effort, which should appeal to many people in our community.

New Business included the following announcements and individual assignments for the committee members:

There will be a meeting of all Sunday School classes on Jan. 14th at which the present Mission Statement and Key Performance Indicators will be reviewed. On Jan. 27th, all church committees will meet to develop new action plans to accomplish the mission.

Selections of work areas:

Secretary- Polly Goldston

Preschool Sunday School- Katie Proctor (new member)

Elementary Sunday School-Tina Frazier

St. John's Academy- Jim Heffner

Coffee House- Harry Sampson

Bible Studies- Ron Jernigan (new member)

Adult Sunday School-Tom Brown (new member)
Teacher appreciation- Jessica Mussette (new member)
Inez Crane Scholarship committee chair-Ron Williamson

It was requested that an article be written for the Visitor to let people know all the options they have when they want to make honoria or memorials.

Meeting was closed with prayer by Tom Brown.

		Expand program into pre-K/youth	8/31/08	?	?	
		Research additional curriculum	12/31/07			
Worship	Educate members what worship is and alternative worship opportunities					Classes/opportunities offered
		**				
		Explore/communicate curriculum availability to educate congregation on aspects of worship including music, prayer and participation in worship	ongoing		Ron, Jim, Tina, Tom	
Service	To solicit and distribute info on service activities that each Bible study and Sunday School class is involved with	*				
Nurture	To facilitate an environment for the study of the Bible	* ***				

Mission Statement: We grow in faith and number by sharing the good news of Jesus Christ through worship, nurture and service.

The following action plan was formulated by Education Committee members attending the Jan. 27 Mission statement planning session.

Area of Focus	Objective	Tasks	Date to be completed	Estimated cost	Responsibility	Measure of achieved objective
Growth	Develop/promote options for adult study					20% increase in Sunday School and Bible Study attendance
		*Develop/distribute Sunday School catalogue of classes 1. compile info 2. assemble catalogue 3. distribute via hard copy, Visitor, website	May 07	\$100 (printing)	Tom Brown	
		**Continue and expand St. John's Academy	Mar 07, Sept 07	\$500 (curriculum)	Jim Heffner	
		***Develop/promote Bible studies	ongoing	\$500	Ron Jernigan	
	Fine-tune OARS to encourage participation from adults and children					When the teaching calendar is full and the rooms can hold no more children!
		Provide better communication	immediately		Tina	
		Develop a cadre of teachers	12/07		Tina	
		Hold regular training sessions for teachers/shepherds	6/30/07		Tina/Joan Bodkins	