

Church and Society  
Meeting Minutes  
December 31, 2006

Present: Mark Hobzek, Kendall Lancaster, Dave Lienert, Elinor Rowan, Becky Schultz, Harry Wilson

All agreed that our first Coffee in the Parlor (CIP) discussion on Illegal Immigration held on December 4 was a huge success. Eighteen people attended. The committee recognized Harry for doing an outstanding job of preparing questions and facilitating the session.

Lessons learned from the first CIP:

- put refreshments on the table we're gathered around...folks more likely to eat/drink
- 'talking stick' was good way to set the rule that we should not interrupt each others' comments. After several minutes of comments, we could perhaps stop using the 'stick'

Kendall suggested that ideas for topics for future Coffee in the Parlor discussions could be taken from the Faith Link adult Sunday School classes. These topics, along with other topics previously considered by the committee, as well as ideas suggested by others in the congregation will be reviewed at our next meeting.

**Dates and topics for the next two Coffee in the Parlors were determined:**

February 5: Topic will be Mental Health Care Delivery and will be facilitated by Harry Wilson.

March 5: Topic is What Age do We Stop Driving? Doug Farling will facilitate.

**Volunteering**

Although many folks in the church are active volunteers throughout the community and surrounding areas, we feel there may be other people in the congregation who may have considered volunteering but weren't quite sure where to look or how to start.

On Monday, January 22, this committee will host a meeting to share information on volunteer opportunities in our immediate communities and throughout Cleveland. Our intent is to generate interest in those who do not volunteer and help them to get familiar with the many options available to them. Dave and Becky will invite known volunteers within the church to speak about their particular efforts (2-5 minutes each). We will also offer an invitation via the Good Word and church bulletins for others to contact one of us if they wish to speak about their volunteer efforts. Deadline for the next Good Word is Monday, January 8.

Tentative opportunities/speakers discussed were:

Business Volunteers Unlimited (BVU): Dave will explain this is a referral group for individuals or groups who wish to volunteer but don't know where to start. BVU is funded by United Way. The list of volunteer opportunities is constantly changing. Website is <http://www.businessvolunteers.org/>

Ruth McDonel could discuss her efforts through the Brecksville Human Resources Center.

Lisa Drew could review the Habitat for Humanity program.

Elinor could review the Prayer Chain program. This is an option for people to volunteer without leaving their home.

### **Recycling:**

Becky reported that she had talked with Pastor Karen about resuming recycling at BUMC. The first step was to contact the city to get the rules and ask them to begin stopping at BUMC on recycle days. Becky did this and provided the details to Karen. Karen then spoke with the staff about resuming this effort. They felt that BUMC probably has more paper than glass, cans, etc to recycle. There was also a concern from Cliff Thielman that even though some trash cans were labeled for recycling, people ignored the labeled cans and Cliff still had to sort through the trash to separate out the recyclables. Becky will talk with Mary Kotnik to ask her to educate all kitchen users to be better about separating recyclables in one can. As per the city, all glass, foil, cans, bottles, and plastic jugs can all be packed together. As a result, only one trash can would be required in the kitchen. Newspaper, magazines, and paper need to be separated. Becky will provide boxes for these in either Karen's office or the main office.

There was also a concern that Brecksville was not truly recycling after providing a separate pickup for these items. It was suggested that the BUMC staff could call the city of Brecksville for a tour of their recycling facility. It is located in the city by the service center.

**Our next meeting will be Sunday, February 18 between services.** NOTE!!! The meeting time is changed from what was decided at the end of this meeting. Dave and Becky will have bell choir rehearsal before the first service on this Sunday, so the meeting time was changed back to between the two services. Kendall will find someone to help him with his Book of Revelation Bible study taking place also between the two services. The agenda for this meeting will be to review all topics suggested for future Coffee in the Parlor discussions. We will prioritize the topics and schedule CIPs for the rest of the year. Where possible, facilitators will be identified.