

Minutes from April 16, 2007 Evangelism Committee Meeting

Attendees: Pastor Karen Oehl, Bob Lundholm, Karen Walburn, Karen Thielman, Catherine Vastartis, Dee Lancaster, Marilyn Schillo

Pastor Karen opened with a prayer

Discussion on new member classes with Pastor Karen. New member classes have been handled in a variety of ways in the past based on the experience of those present. Discussion on how to go forward and options. Discussed how some of the ways it has been done at BUMC in the past and how some other churches handle. It was decided we will try a twice a year format, offering three classes between services on Sunday mornings, in Fall and in Spring. The first of these will be in September.

September 9, 16 and 23 will be classes with September 30 being Sunday when new members join. The new members will be given a choice to join during first or second service on September 30. September 9 will be a session that we use to have the new members meet each other and start the process. We will provide coffee/refreshments, maybe in room 301, I will work with Irma on the room, a tour of the Church can be part of this. September 16 and 23 will be learning more about the committees and offering of BUMC. We will ask each committee to have the chair or a representative spend a few minutes with the new members during one Sunday to meet the new members and explain what their committees function is, as well as how that committee might work for the new members or what the new members might do for the committee/Church. The new members will meet with Pastor Karen individually and will be encouraged to take classes during their first year with the church that are offered, these would include Network and classes on Methodist Faith and Beliefs, which will be open to not only new members but existing members. It is hoped a more structured new member class schedule will enhance and encourage new membership. Details of this program in September will be finalized at next meeting. Childcare will need to be provided during these classes. The Spring class would work around Easter.

Refreshments for new member classes would be provided from Evangelism budget.

Current Evangelism ministries:

Greeters are at both services.

We are getting bread to first time visitors when we can identify with addresses.

First time visitors are getting welcome letter.

We are still not sure on how to follow up after this initial contact, more discussion on this subject.

A follow-up tea or hospitality at Chippewa Place to the earlier very successful tea is being considered.

We sent cards to shut-ins at Easter, considering doing this for other Church Holidays.

New Ministries:

Softball team is set, will offer opportunities over next couple weeks for any last minute joiners, final roster needs to be in before first game which should be first Tuesday in May.

Catherine Vastartis is considering hosting a card/board game night like the Jesus & Ebert offerings. Looking at maybe May. If this works well we will discuss and could make into an ongoing ministry. If this happens a ministry form would be filled out. Catherine to work with Irma on getting the word out on this.

Karen Walburn is willing to co-chair Evangelism next year but would like a co-chair.

Meeting closed.