

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES September 18, 2006

In Attendance: Father Jonathan Sams, Jim Maxwell, Mardi Maxwell, Chuck Smith, Cheryl Davenport, Cheryl Walter, Judy McQuiston

Welcome to the committee Cheryl Walter

Goal 2: Welcome, inform, involve and integrate new and other members into St. Stephens.

- a. Jonathan joined us to explain the evolution of the new member classes. He told us that years ago his philosophy was to not put pressure on new people to join but learned from Geoff & Cheryl Walter who attended a conference on the topic, that churches that expect more of new members have a better rate of commitment.

Initially, he held 3 classes, but that has evolved into 2 classes. The first allows class attendees to share their "spiritual autobiography." Attendees pair off, share their story and then are presented to the group by their partner. Experience has showed us that it is a wonderful way to learn about each other and people tend to bond during the experience. The second class involves sharing the many aspects of St. Stephens with the attendees in an interactive way. Each person writes his/her idea of the "ideal" or what they want from worship and from church community. We then share what St. Stephens has to offer and allow time for questions and suggestions.

Process to join St. Stephens:

Jonathan identifies, from a variety of ways or sources, those persons/families that have shown an interest in becoming members. Letters are sent inquiring if they want to be members and, if so, to attend an identified Sunday to be recognized in church and at fellowship hour. New member packets are sent at this time.

- b. New Member Packets
 - We viewed the Volunteer Handbook created by the office to accompany the Volunteer Opportunity sheet. It was suggested that the office make copies available to current members and Cheryl D. will talk with Gretchen about that.
 - After some suggestions from the committee and Bible verses from Jim Maxwell and a committee vote, the former Impact Statement now reads as:

Now all of you together are Christ's body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it.
1 Corinthians 12:27

Volunteer Opportunities

- c. Host program
Discussed Phil Pierce's leaving the committee and responsibility for this program. We discussed the second class being "late" and lack of interest as a result. Mardi and Cheryl D. made calls and made 4 matches. In discussion about someone new coordinating this project, it was decided to streamline the process. Jonathan suggested that we not ask new members if they want a host, but rather just assign one to them. He will continue to be responsible to provide names of new members and potential 'Host' families. He will also include a statement in the

new member letter that they will be assigned a "Host" and to expect a call. The coordinator will then call the potential Host and ask them to make a call to the new member. A thank you letter and reminder of "Host" training will then be sent to the person agreeing to become a Host. A brief training will be held after the 10 AM service for all families agreeing to be a Host in a given period.

It was also suggested that after a year, we contact both Host and "new" members to do a brief evaluation of the process and their experience to help us make the experience a more valuable one for all involved. THANK YOU to Mardi Maxwell for volunteering to coordinate this program.

- d. Booklets from Channing -Bete
Cheryl D. just got the tax exempt letter from the office and will order 20 copies each of :
History of the Episcopal Church
About Being an Episcopalian

Goal 1: Welcome & acknowledge guests to St. Stephens.

- a. Welcome packets
Judy asked that Cheryl D. send her the Welcome note signed by Jonathan as she needs to make more copies and get Jonathan's signature on them. It was suggested that if the packets do not get distributed during the service, that the After Service Greeters make sure the visitors get a packet
- b. After Service Greeters
It was noted that the assigned greeter was not present for a number of recent Sundays. Cheryl D. will encourage people to write the date on the calendar the next time a new listing goes out and she will post the schedule about the water fountain. Chuck agreed to fill in when someone is missing.

Goal 3: Celebrate St. Stephens membership and participation with the entire congregation.

Cheryl D. will meet with Kaylee Collins who has agreed to write the bios of new members for *The Witness*. They will discuss the questions we identified. Justin Fragnoli agreed to take pictures of the new members to accompany the articles. THANK YOU to Judy McQuiston for agreeing to coordinate the effort of these youth, edit the articles and coordinate with Ginny Bennett for their inclusion into *The Witness*. Cheryl will forward names of new members to Judy.

- 4. New Member Recognition/Hosting Fellowship Hour (Committee Development) – October 8
Maxwells will not be able to attend, but Chuck, Judy, Cheryl & Cheryl will provide a food item. Cheryl W. agreed to purchase a ½ sheet cake to welcome new members. Cheryl D. will make a sign with the new member names, update the Member Development info board and make a sign-up list for potential new committee members.

- 5. Next Meeting date - Monday, October 30, 2006 7 PM Bishop Emerich