

EUCC Governing Body Retreat Minutes – Saturday, December 12, 2009

8:30 Call to Order, opening

8:35 Team Reports

Servant Team, Lori and Laura Evans: accomplishments include Advent Fair, Open House Goals include Valentine's Day Open House; review all recipients to confirm their alignment with EUCC mission; need new team members to spread out the work.

Facilities, Wynn: meet monthly; Job Jar Gang very effective and very active; many issues (a long list was shared of projects to be done, with acknowledgement that some are major and will require outside professionals; direction from the GB on the 212 building is sought; [Corrections from Jan. GB meeting: Team has discussed long-term and short-term plans for 212 but does not now have these; Wynn and Katy will meet to determine staff moves to 212; a 212 Circle is to come back to the GB with recommendations for GB to consider; a 212 Circle is now under the Facilities Team]; requested reserve fund to handle large emergency expenses; discussion of selling pews no longer in use, by ad on eBay though may only bring \$175 each [Lori moved to sell, seconded, approved by voice vote].

Learning Team, Ruth: Intergenerational Thanksgiving event was successful; updating Sunday school curriculum; noted that Katy is seeking parents' input on the curriculum for younger children; will majorly update the Easter morning event.

Community Team, Patty: plan to renew Supper Clubs, due to interest last winter; Janet will return to in January; seeking feedback on goals; will explore interest in small events

People Team, Debbie: a high priority is succession planning for retiring GB members; membership talent survey results being tallied; analyzing database software capabilities.

Worship Team, Lil: with so much overlap, seems to serve as an umbrella to many other Teams' activities, as their work meets Worship Team goals; a technology team is looking at software; arranged "Roots of the UCC" Thanksgiving event; looking at possible incorporation of financial software with attendance software.

Finance Team, Ken: Ken, Paul K. and Scott G. spent last 18 months sorting through the budget; one result is that the Feb. 2010 report will be very clear; in June, the church was \$50,000 away from having to close its doors; seeking a stewardship chair to serve year-round rather than only for two weeks in November; creating an Audit Circle, to provide internal audits every 3-5 years, with an external audit in the 5th year; requested only trained accountants to handle finances from now on!; a goal is to move received cash sooner rather than later, and differentiate between pledged and non-pledged (Sunday-by-Sunday or special event cash income)

--- Break ---

Finance Report, Ken: pledged income for 2010 is up by 9% over last year, from the same number of giving households; in July, the budget was down by \$12,000, but now only by \$200, due to moving items around to more appropriate budget lines; question of paying bonuses (all employees from 2009 or only those now employed?); discussion of appropriateness of paying bonuses at all vs. setting aside and "extra" money for serendipitous events vs. increasing salaries (this latter course is more restrictive than just paying bonuses when possible); decision to set aside any extra money for 2010 and focus on seeing about increasing salaries above proposed 1.5 - 2 % ; with extra pledged income, possible to increase Sue Schindel's hours? [no action requested, no decision taken] ; consideration of handouts with budget figures: six new household/new member pledges for 2010 over 2009 added to anticipated increase

10:00 212 building, Gary: *Future needs:* during construction (March 2010) will need to use 212 building; note

that Master Plan did not address lack of meeting space; raze 212 for more parking? retain 212 and increase use of 212 for programming? determine EUCC need of 212 for coming year. Plan for use during *repair schedule* beginning in March 2010: Facilities Team to assume clearinghouse function to address use for classes, meetings; short-term and long-term plans have been developed by Facilities Team and are available for review and prioritization

10:35 Building Committee, Gary, Doug: presentation of letters that will go out to members, detailing current

plans, seeking additional pledges, inviting to multiple explanatory meetings

11:00 Church growth, David Miers: "Where there is no vision, the people perish." (Source: Old KJ Bible) Posed three questions for small groups to address, rather than him first giving a talk: (1) if, like most people, there was a time when you did not attend church, what happened to bring you back? (2) in what ways were your group's stories similar and in what ways different? compose a group response of six words (3) share an experience about a time you invited someone to come to your church.

Miers: lives in transition may not be open to change; children are a big factor in church growth; the *plan* of church has not changed in centuries but *families* have; periods of transition offer opportunities for church growth; church GBs generally don't lead the church but yet are the true source of leadership; vision a key issue; *visual apparitions* means certain ones had a gift of dreaming, and the Hebrews heard from God via visions; it was less important what visionaries saw than what the prophets said (the *words* of the vision); faith will help us meet our challenges; see our church as a *consecrated community*, important to nurture growth and build community; referred to Lyman Coleman and his model of how over time, while *gathering* in community has initial importance, it gradually gives way to increasingly addressing content; it is important to deepen relationships rather than just invite people; quality vs. quantity

12:05 Joint Ministries, Ken: gave a one-page handout about UCC ministry in WG for the next ten years; chose

to focus on geographical area of Webster Groves for convenience, rather than going farther afield; talked

about First Cong of WG (it has a declining membership and a large building, while EUCC has a growing membership and a small building) and Church of the Open Door; GB to read handout; at this point, First Cong. not responding to EUCC overtures

12:15 Administrative issues, Laura: Team reports due when? and sent to whom? and how to be presented? Send to Katy ASAP, with goal of a first paper draft out by January 4; Team Leader DIRECTIONS are to highlight five (5) key accomplishments.

Also mention of a bulletin board with photos of Ministry Team members, and description of Team tasks; also GB members; seek photo guidance from Peg K and Gail S.

12:20 Adjourn

Respectfully submitted by
Paul Mack, Secretary

December 17, 2009