

Present: Laura Bardelmeier, Ken Ulmer, Ruth Panhorst, Debbie Gregg, Bob Risk, Lori Winter, Patty Pelikan, Katy Hawker, Lil Lau, Paul Mack *Unable to be present:* Janet Rundquist

8:20 am Opening

*A reading by Paul Mack, holding intentions for Janet and all those affected by the September 11, 2001 events.

*Laura initiated a reading by all GB members of the EUCC vision, mission and values, in order to bring these statements to the forefront of our thinking for today's work.

8:35 am Brainstorming ideas for ministry teams to establish strategies toward achieving of short-term goals

**Much wide-ranging discussion ensued, with actual brainstorming of team activities beginning around 9:30 and, following a break at 10:30, continuing until 11:45 with active participation, addressing possible and/or desirable, specific in-reach and out-reach team activities.*

[What follows is a summary of the initial GB conversation. Scribed notes are available. Detailed team notes appear following.]

*Reaching out to the wider community and following up with new and potential members.

*Discussion of the August 30 meeting with interested congregational members, regarding pastoral and program emphases for EUCC: most attendees indicated a desire for a blend of both emphases.

*An idea was offered that would involve a three-session series of meetings between a pastor and the congregation, to clarify roles and expectations: (1) cong. members state what the pastor's duties should include;

(2) cong. members prioritize the duties; (3) pastor meets with cong. members and tells how time actually is spent.

*Questions posed at this point included the following: What is ministry, and where is the match between what the minister wants and what the cong. wants; How a minister is to balance accountability to the cong. with the call from the sacred; What is the minister's staff function and what is volunteer.

*Two sample approaches to worship: the pastor sets the table and invites the cong. or, all decide together what the worship should be. Katy's value for worship is that adults feel welcome.

NOTE: GB members are invited to Sept. 20 new member meeting to talk briefly about roles

*Discussion regarding whether or not to grow the church. What does the 21st century EUCC look like?

*Discussion continued about outreach to new members and follow-up with both new members and those who attend once. Present software shortcomings are a big issue, as is time by office staff to actually contact ill or absent members: the concern is that extended absence may tend to lead to departure of members. Laura read from print materials about what attracts and retains new members.

10:30 break

Brainstorming of specific activities for Teams *All those present participated in offering suggestions of activities that Team leaders can present to their Teams, among others later conceived, for Team consideration and to affix dollar amounts, submitted to Ken, Finance Team Leader, by October 7, for consideration by GB at October 14 meeting, for submission to the congregation, with requested budget dollars tied to specific Team activities. Initial retreat dialogue included whether an activity was for Team In-reach or Out-reach, but this distinction was quickly and merrily abandoned, so each Team is free to make its own determination of in-ness and out-ness.*

People Team (Debbie) Safe church initiative / succession process for GB members / review software / recruitment process for Team members / fast-tracking new members into meaningful ministry roles / conduct an every-member

canvass / conduct a sharing-your-gifts survey (every two years) / conduct exit interviews with those who leave leadership roles and when leaving EUCC / hold events regularly

Community (Patty) How to engage and monitor small-group interests / create small group for new members / form groups for particular constituencies / pay attention to who's absent and who's missed (*Q: which circle will do this?*) / nurture spirituality in small groups

Worship (Lil) how to decide the content of the worship service (i.e., Sing every hymn verse whether or not time allows? Does including two sacraments (communion and baptism) in one service somehow diminish [*secretary's word choice here*] each? / how best to engage technology (in worship) / how to address needs of our student population (they may choose to sleep in Sunday mornings) / offer communion more than once per week (example of an evening service with communion on Wednesday or Saturday) / offer a chat session with GB members about how we perceive worship (for example, specifically at a new members' meeting) / offer the sermon or service via technology for those who cannot or could not attend (in real time and via online access) / invite special speakers as part of worship service

Servant (Lori) consider offering to host community-wide, non-church, safe-place discussion and dialogue space and facilitation on difficult issues (e.g., engage the local school community in a dialogue about racial issues) / Team assess the effectiveness of current efforts / invite external charities to make their plea for funding by us, instead of EUCC automatically giving to whoever may request / give x % to the wider church (e.g., OGHs) rather than to many smaller groups / give only to groups whose work mirrors the EUCC O&A policy / give cong. member people-hours and presence at an agency instead of just giving money or items / encourage members, including children, to bring a friend to church

Learning (Ruth) first, a list of words: trust, probability, possibility, history, inquisitiveness, currency, outreach, measurability / address needs of both adult ed. and child ed. / keep the grown-up children in the education loop / / continue the depth of the current adult ed. [bible study a good example] / help children to become as inquisitive as the adults / develop outreach / focus efforts on few issues done well rather than many issues done poorly / be open to information and ideas for future planning / provide resources for children's ed. as is done for adult ed. (speakers) / a safety concern emerges when children are released from shepherds' care after the service and they race upstairs, unaccompanied, to find parents or caregivers / follow up to Rally Day / how welcoming is the shepherd process to new members and/or to their children? (*Q: is this an issue for Worship Team?*) / it's time to evaluate the children's ed. curriculum: it's been used for seven years / how to determine what adults want in adult ed.? / three arenas are served by the Learning Team: current children, families and singles, and a wide variety of age groups (preschool to elders)

Finance (Ken) offer a 5-10 minute overview of finances to new members' meeting / give new members an information packet within a month after joining / tell the finances story, briefly / each Team asked for three tasks focused on new members [*secretary's question: tasks as related to finances?*] / provide information to all cong. members about special gifts / events should give something back for money given (e.g., Trivia Night is fun, so members are not just giving money into a "void" / focused fund-raising / an external audit periodically / tax forms for planned and estate giving

Facilities (Bob) signage, internally and externally, though signs will change after construction / is it possible to have padded pew cushions and chairs? / is it possible to have green plants or an indoor fountain in the sanctuary? / invite someone to perform *feng shui* / can the children's worship room (downstairs) become a meeting room? / can Sue's downstairs office become a meeting room? status of the 212 building? (Jeff Morris is the lead on this)

Financial and Budget Report (Ken)

*Handout showed seven months of 2009 annualized for easier consideration

* Column D is the base, Column G is 4% above base and Column J is 8% above base, for discussion purposes

*Specific discussion:

Rows 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, to create the base; *(4% is a standard hypothetical accounting device; 8% is just an extrapolation of 4%)*

Row 20, presumed envelope giving, Column D

Derivation of dollar amount in Col. D: $\$141 / 7 \text{ months} = \x and $\$x \text{ times } 12 \text{ months} = \X and $\text{Col. C times } 98\% = \X

Row 37, total income in three different scenarios, Col. D, Col. G, Col. J;

Row 191, music (this item will be elaborated in future budget printouts);

Row 198, total expenses;

Row 199, net income

Note: Katy left at 12:00 noon.

Minutes approved with correction of a typo; Sue Schindel can post to the Leader Box,

churchoffice@evangelicalucc.org

Other business

Requested use of \$10,500 to update technology at EUCC: wifi, membership management software, and use of technology to improve communication. Ken noted that it actually is only \$3000, as \$7,500 went to the Foundation as requested by E. Fauth, leaving \$2,000 Miller and \$1,000 Engelmann.

Laura B. will contact Special Gifts Committee and let them know of our recommendation.

Missouri Health Care for All: the GB discussed and it was decided to ask the Social Justice Circle to review any type of endorsement. Lori Winter will contact the circle. Lil reminded us that there is currently an UCC initiative.

A motion for taking these steps was made by Ken, and seconded by Debbie; presumption of unanimous agreement.

Closing

*Ken led the GB in a closing prayer.

Adjourned at 12:10.