

**Joel Team Meeting**  
**Sunday, June 29, 2008**

**Attending**

Pastor Naomi King (Presiding), Bill Church (Assisting), Angie Hawkins (Recording), Donna Barnett, Cindy Contillo, Richard Downing, Walt Farris, Gordon Hale, Laura Lever, Don Nagel, Terrie Scarboro, Tom Temofonte and Chuck Tucker.

**Members not attending**

(Bill Cheek – on vacation)

**Opening**

Pastor Naomi opened the meeting at 5:35PM with scripture reading from I Peter 4:8-11. Pastor Naomi then led the group in prayer asking God's blessing and guidance for the team.

**Introduction:**

**Handouts included:**

1. Joel Team member list.
2. Letter sent to congregation asking for people to pray and ask for God's direction in serving on this team.

This time was spent getting to know everyone on the Joel Team. Pastor Naomi asked that we pair up and ask our partner 3 questions. Each person then introduced their partner and reported the answers that were given.

The questions were:

1. Tell something about yourself that not too many people know. Something you wouldn't know by your appearance.
2. Tell where you have experienced God's grace.
3. Tell what you hope will happen as we meet as a Joel Team.

**Planning Time:**

**Handouts included:**

1. Discernment: To See As God Sees!
2. Consensus Levels
3. Discerning God's Will Together
4. The Fenhagen Model for Corporate Discernment and Consensus
5. Ministry-Use survey from Preschool, Children's Coordinator, Youth Coordinator and Adult Sunday School teachers.
6. Floor plans of downstairs and upstairs Educational Wing.
7. Pastor Naomi's summary of Ministry Survey.

**Purpose & Responsibilities of the Joel Team:**

In the United Methodist's Book of Discipline, churches are encouraged to form a Study Committee as the first step to any building program. Our Trustees, after reviewing the Ministry-Use surveys, realized there is growth within the church and evidence that a study group should be formed. The first question was: "How to Choose Members?" This was left up to God to speak to individuals after a letter was sent to the congregation by Pastor Naomi in May, 2008. The responsibilities of this committee are to research, discuss, review and plan for each program within the church for the present and to look ahead to the future.

Pastor Naomi asked that the Joel Team look at how our existing building (particularly the classrooms) are being used and plan for the 2008-2009 school year for the Preschool, Children's Ministry, Youth and Adult classes.

**Pastor Naomi led the following discussion on discernment and consensus.**

Discernment: Six scriptures were read: 1 Cor. 12:10, Romans 12:2, Ephesians 5:17, 1 Kings 3:5, 9-14 and Acts 15:5. Discernment is *knowing and doing God's will*. Commitment to God is saying, "Yes" *before you know what it is that God wants you to do*. Discussed the 11 Discernment Steps: Toward a Vision of God's Will (see Discernment handout). Pastor Naomi encouraged each member to keep a journal as we listen as God speaks to us. We should bring it to each meeting and share with the team.

Consensus:

How did the early church reach a consensus?

1. Allowed the Holy Spirit to be their guide.
2. Devoted themselves to prayer, teaching & the Lord's Supper.
3. Were one in heart & mind.

Three levels of Consensus:

1. I agree
2. I don't agree with everything, but I can live with it.
3. I don't agree at all, but I can see that most do agree and I can live with it.

If consensus cannot be reached then we must return to prayer and discussion.

Gathering Data: Led by Bill Church and Pastor Naomi.

Remainder of the meeting was used to review the Educational Wing's floor plans and Pastor Naomi's Summary of Ministry Survey. Time was spent learning to read the room layouts and the needs for Children's Ministry during Sunday School, Wednesday Night Ministry and Worship times for 2008-2009.

It was noted that the upstairs classroom used by the Confirmation Class is available for 2008-2009 school year. Time was needed to explain the Children's Sunday School Rotational Model to some members that are not involved with it.

**Task to complete before next meeting:**

- Each member was encouraged to spend some time with the Children's Coordinator (Mary Katherine Hale), Youth Coordinator (Kelley Temofonte) and Adult Sunday School teachers (Walt Farris & Bill Cheek), talk to them about their individual ministries and get answers to questions to help the team better understand why they have requested additional space. (Why do they need what they are asking for?)
- Encouraged to pray and seek "to see as God sees". Keep a journal or some record of God's speaking to you.
- Read over the discernment materials. (These are attached and easier to read than the copies handed out at the meeting.)

Bill Church closed in prayer.

Meeting dismissed at 6:55PM.

Next meeting scheduled for Sunday, July 13, 2008 at 5:00PM. Bring a sandwich and Pastor Naomi will provide lemonade.

Respectfully submitted,

*Angie Hawkins*