

Admin Council

Meeting held Sunday, March 8, 2009 @ 6:00 PM

Meeting called to order by Chairman Michelle E

Introduction of those present since this was the first meeting of the current group. Present were:

Michelle E
John G
Bonnie H
Maxine H
Barb S
Jeanne R
Greg R
Jean S
Tracy J
Lee J
Kip R
John M
Martha B
Don B
Trudy B
Sara N
Cindy N
Eileen H
Doyle O
Michael M
Jeff N

Opening devotions were based on Romans 4:17

Meeting was turned over to Steve M for focus on Budget Strategy. He presented an update on how we are doing. About 1/3 of the giving units stepped up from last year. Another 1/3 stayed about the same and about 1/3 reduced their giving amount. On the whole, pledged giving increased a large amount this past year and the year before.

Past years have shown that final costs end up being approximately 80% - 85% of what was budgeted, due to committees being cost conscious. However, historically, giving goes down in the summer months and increase toward the end of the year during the holidays. Based on monthly expenses, on August 1st we will be \$40,000 in the red and we must address how to meet financial obligations without cutting staff and/or programs.

People give because they believe in something. Any church (just like any business) can only succeed if they base their focus on the following items, in the proper order.

1. Core values – for Asbury that means “S O S” (Spiritual Growth, Outreach, Social Justice)
2. People – all must be focused on the core values
3. Processes – systems, data, how we do what we need to do
4. Strategies – What do we want to do and what have we determined is the best way to achieve those goals?

In order to succeed, we must start from the 1st step and work through all steps in order. Doing it any other way will result in failure.

It is our belief that our core values are in place and we will always need to work on the second step.

According to attendance records, about 50% of our listed members attend one or more of the worship services each week. 40% to 50% is considered to be good.

Suggestions to increase membership and this should be an ongoing process:

1. Steve handed out a form to help think us of people we know with whom we can share the Asbury experience. Hang it up so it is a constant reminder to share our faith.
2. Call people we know and invite them to attend various functions. Be a faith friend. If people become active in the programs offered, they will become members.

3. Contact members who don't attend and visit with them, ask them to come to a service.
4. Look at the church directory and call a couple of people you don't know.
5. Get a 'Facebook' page set up and add a link to the recent Argus Leader articles about the Kingdom Project.

Ideas for improvements of processes include:

1. Make sure that we are separating giving units when children of members move out and are on their own.
2. Watch for people leaving a service with a loaf of bread. Make sure we are greeting visitors and making them feel welcome.
3. Get the names of visitors and give them to Roxie in the office, in case they haven't signed the pew book.

Proposed strategies to address expected budget shortfall:

1. Control utility costs. Have "Don't Touch" signs made to place above thermostats.
2. Promote electronic giving during Lenten season so the rate of giving stays constant. This has almost total privacy and eliminates some extra costs involved with printing envelopes, etc.
3. Make a quarterly "state-of-the-church" video so members are aware of how we are doing, not only financially, but current programs, services and memberships as well.
4. A challenge to all present at the meeting to set aside \$100 a month in a savings account. If the budget is okay at the end of the year, each member would have an extra \$1,200. If the budget is in the red, there would be an additional \$25,000 set aside for giving.

A motion was made by Jeff N to approve the original budget and the motion was seconded by Tracy J. Discussion was held. Steve M reminded the group that, with the requirement for a balanced budget, a line item would have to be added to cover the shortfall. The motion was passed with a line item added for "Faith & Prayer", which will be the difference between budgeted expenses and promised giving.

It was agreed that this issue needs to be kept at the front of future discussions.

John M announced that there will be a clean-up on May 2nd in preparation for Celebration Sunday. Everyone is invited to attend and bring necessary tools.

Kip R closed the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Jeanne R