

Minutes

Natural Church Development Meeting

July 26, 2009 8:00 a.m.

Attending: Pastor Jacobson, Jana Abbott, Zoe Hoyle, Anna Flynn, Joy Leimer, Tom Yingling, John Buckner, and Mike Honas.

Absent: Joan Bowen and Jeremy Koehler

Jana Abbott called the meeting to order. Pastor Jacobson led us in opening prayer.

Old Business

The poster board display of the Loving Relationships spreadsheet was discussed. Further guidance on the size of the poster board and what the display should depict was discussed and decided upon. Anna Flynn will get back in touch with Randy Johnson to let him know what we are contemplating. Deadline of September 13 was decided so that it can be introduced to the congregation on Rally Day with a brief temple talk by John Buckner. Anna will also see if Randy can make paper copies of the Loving Relationships poster for bulletin inserts on September 13 and include it in the September newsletter as well.

New Business

The NCD team next discussed ideas and action plans to bring awareness to the congregation of Loving Relationships within Gloria Dei and implement programs to improve upon Loving Relationships.

Zoe Hoyle brought an idea to hold a "wedding shower" to honor members of the congregation who have been married 50 years or more. The NCD team decided to pursue this idea and hold a recognition/celebration around February 14. Zoe will coordinate with the office to gather the identity of those members and then solicit information/pictures from the married couples to be honored.

Tom Yingling discussed creating a Youth Tree with the names of our youth on the tree. Each week a youth's name would be picked from the tree and the congregation would be encouraged to meet and visit with that youth and his or her family to get to know them better. Tom will coordinate setting this up with Karen Fleming, chair of the Youth Committee. It was decided to try this project later this year.

Jana Abbott brought an idea presented to her by Kris Knuth for an e-mail prayer and praise line. The current prayer and praise line was discussed and how it operates. It was decided to pursue the e-mail version, but leave the current chain in operation for those members who do not utilize e-mail or wish to continue with the existing prayer chain. Jana will coordinate this with Priscilla and place announcements in the August newsletter and bulletins for interested members to sign up. The e-mail version of the prayer and praise line will be added to the Time and Talent Sheets.

John Buckner suggested that we make use of the Loving Relationships scriptures that the NCD team identified at its June meeting by including a weekly Loving Relationships scripture reading with the prayer of the week that is sent out by e-mail each week. The weekly Loving Relationships scripture

would also be reprinted in the Sunday worship bulletins. Jana will select the scripture readings for August and provide those to Cathy in the office.

Tom Yingling discussed some ideas that Outreach Committee is working on that relate to Loving Relationships: 1) inactive contacts; 2) door hangers; and 3) nursing home visits. After the Outreach Committee meets in August, Tom will bring those items back at the next NCD meeting for further discussion and how the NCD team might become involved.

Jana Abbott suggested that Gloria Dei hold an "information fair" for the various committees, small groups and organizations within Gloria Dei to make members aware of the opportunities to develop closer relationships with other members of the congregation and to attain a sense of belonging and acceptance – one of the main characteristics of Loving Relationships identified by the congregation. It was decided to hold this fair October 11 in conjunction with Stewardship kickoff and Time & Talent Surveys. Joy Leimer will head up the information fair and coordinate with Stewardship committee chair Mick Haugan. Joy will disseminate the information to the committee chairs so they can begin planning their participation.

Jana Abbott presented a brochure provided to her by Annette Lindal about a program used at First United Methodist Church in Derby called Neighborhood Caring Units. This program was discussed and how Gloria Dei might implement such a program using zip code areas. Further discussion was deferred to next month's meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. Next month's NCD meeting will be August 23, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jana Abbott