

Dripping Springs United Methodist Church Church Council Minutes November 20, 2011

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The meeting began in the Youth Room at 3:15 PM. Neil asked for reflections from the group on Youth Sunday. Pastor David spoke about the organic nature of DSUMC and how Lay people do ministry. He concluded by leading prayer time.

EXAMINING THE WALLS

The meeting continued in the Youth Room with ministry updates from those present. Key items:

- Hospitality ministered to the Pastor of Spicewood Methodist Church while she was sick.
- Trustees are considering expansion of the north driveway.
- Children's Weekday Ministry held a Fall Fundraiser and were able to purchase needed playground equipment.
- The Lay Leadership has almost filled all nomination spots for 2012. Mike Embry requested information from Council Stewards regarding key accomplishments for presentation at the upcoming Church Conference on December 12.
- Worship Team now has 125 volunteers.
- Cara reported that the server issues experience by the Church have been mostly resolved.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHURCH

Minutes for the previous meeting of October 16 were not presented for approval and no action was taken

Mike Firlie summarized the recent passing of the City Planned Development Document. The Council will now need to make decisions on the next steps. Neil stated that there would be discussion of this topic at the upcoming Council Retreat in January with a goal of creating a roadmap for future Building Program actions.

Jerry Lewallen gave an overview of the Church's financial position. Income continues to run behind budget. Expenses have recently ticked up to where we are now about 98% of the budget to date amount. This has caused the Committee to utilize a small amount of the reserve funds set aside for 2011, but the \$100,000 capital accrual amount has not been tapped. If past trends continue, November and December income should be substantially higher and we should finish the year in a strong position.

Jerry Lewallen reported that the Stewardship Committee has now reformed under Finance, and they are developing a plan for communication and teaching. The Extravagant Generosity class was well attended.

Pastor David presented a concept for slightly re-organizing the Administrative Council. These ideas come after months of prayer and discussions between David, Neil, Kevin, and Mike. Beginning in 2012, we will pilot a new organization consisting of a separate Business Council and Ministry Council. The goal is to enable the Ministry Council to focus on ministry and drive the spiritual life of the church. The Business Council will exist to support and enable the Ministry Council to lead our Church. These ideas will be further explored at the January Council retreat.

We were reminded to send our "Dream Big" budget information to Jerry by the end of the month (October). Jerry discussed the financial standings and that the Finance Committee planned to get information back to the church Council by December or January. Jerry also asked for any needs or expected expenses from a ministry standpoint that we know of that might not be funded through year end.

Pastor David closed the meeting with prayer time, adjourning 4:15 PM.

Attendance (*---church staff):

*David Skinner
Neil Graff
Mike Embry
*Kevin Fowler
*Shana Fowler
Linda Covington
Sue Windhager
Don Cawood
Keith Blackmon
James McCann
Jerry Lewallen
Mark Lander
Mike Firle
*Jody Strauss
*Cara Mullen
*Barbara McArthur
*Adam Thornton
David Coulter