

SUMMARY OF HTLC COUNCIL RETREAT- JULY 14, 2009

The Church Council met in a retreat setting in lieu of a July council meeting. The retreat was held as an orientation to new council members and as a refresher for continuing members. It was not an official meeting of the council and no actions were taken.

President Dan T. led the meeting. Four members of the council were unable to attend. The early part of the meeting was dedicated to a light meal and a warm-up exercise to help all members become better acquainted.

Dan then led the council through selected portions of the constitution related to council and committee responsibilities. The discussion also addressed the Mutual Ministry committee (which reported that it had its initial meeting with Pastor Wildermuth early in July). The Congregational Covenant was also reviewed, and the discussion focused on “keeping the Covenant alive”. An outline of the actions and activities required of the council through May 2010 was also reviewed.

Each Committee Chair present gave a short report on their plans. The plans were in various stages of development. All committees present provided a report. The highlights were:

- The Evangelism Committee continues to develop the neighborhood cluster concept and has a sub-committee working on that project. It is also considering a Congregational Directory and options to accomplish this on our own. The committee is also testing a “Greeters-at-large” concept and a “No one sits alone” program.
- The Worship and Music Committee has initiated a process to study the possible adoption of the new “Cranberry” hymnal, and will present more information to the Council at its August meeting.
- The Social Concerns Committee outlined the status of some programs, in particular the discussion involved El Milagro/Agros and Lutheran Compass Center, as well as other programs.
- The Christian Education Committee reported that it has teachers for all positions except for the “Pre-school/Pre-K” level. Additional volunteers will be appreciated. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is the next big project for the summer.
- The Youth Committee was focused on the New Orleans trip that began the following weekend and discussed some of its plans to help retain high school level students.
- The Congregational Life Committee reviewed some of its plans and its need for more members.

The council also considered how to facilitate and improve communications throughout the congregation and among council and committee members. The Council discussed some ideas to make it clear that all members are welcome to attend council and committee meetings, and to make it easier for members to identify the right person to talk to when they have an idea or concern to share.

The next scheduled meeting of the council will be in the Atrium at HTLC at 7 p.m. on August 11th.