

**New Members Board Minutes
June 17, 2009**

Present: Ashley Kloess, Christy McDanold, Kate Nelson, Kathy Kripps, Gina Massoni, Catherine Foote, Jeff Coleman, Connie Ballmer, George Burns, Roberta Hollowell, Ann Giesel

Jeff Hancock hosted an end-of-year potluck at his home. The meeting followed the potluck. Thank you, Jeff!

Devotions: Roberta led devotions

May Minutes: Approved as submitted

Thank you, Kathy Kripps!: Kathy was recognized for her wonderful service as past chair of the New Member Board

Notes to Visitors:

- § Kathy Vitz has agreed to write thank you notes. Christy McDanold has agreed to be a back-up if she needs help.
- § Discussion regarding whether to send the thank you notes after a visitor's first visit or third visit. Currently the notes are sent after the first visit. After much discussion, it was decided to leave things as they are; continue sending the notes after the first visit.
- § In addition to the thank you notes written by the New Member Board, visitors also receive a welcome letter signed by one of the Pastors after their first visit. They are also added to the Church and Home mailing list.

Welcome Notes to Confirmands: Roberta will send a welcome note to the 5 or 6 confirmands who recently became members.

Thanking Gretchen Hull and Claudia Patton:

- § We will recognize Gretchen and Claudia at the June 28th service.
- § Everyone who has received a welcome note from them will be asked to stand.
- § There will be a large card for people to sign.

New Members that joined 6/14/09

- § 12 new members joined 6/14/09
- § Over the past year, 63 new members have joined! This is a record for recent years.

Assessment / Discussion of what worked and what could be improved

- § Holding new member classes every other month made it easy for people to "get in". There was discussion about holding classes quarterly instead of every two months. It was decided to at least start out holding the classes every two months and re-evaluate if that becomes onerous.
- § Having two weeks of classes then joining the next week put a lot of pressure on people to join. Suggestion that there be a week in between classes and joining.
- § The classes were greatly shortened and simplified. Instead of four to six classes, there were two classes totaling three hours.

- § A church leader (Jim White) had a real passion for adding new members and made many phone calls to potential new members.

Sponsors

- § Improved sponsor training was discussed. Christy agreed to work on training mentors. She will draft a training sheet to give to sponsors. Christy will also get something in Church and Home about the sponsor program. There was discussion about having a sign up sheet for sponsors as well.
- § Discussion about how to better introduce sponsors to the new member they are signed up with and having a fixed amount of time for the sponsors to be considered sponsors (not open ended).

Greeters Report:

- § The usual greeters are not as available in the summer
- § New Member Board members agreed to be available for greeting during the summer. Jeff will contact people with specific dates.

Parish Life

- § Catherine reported that the New Member Board is part of the Parish Life ministry which also includes Parish Care and Fellowship.
- § "Block Parties" are being arranged by Parish Care. They will be organized by zip code.

Managing the List

- § Roberta will work with Kathy and Ann to see how we can better managing the list of potential new members.

Council Report: Gina gave an excellent and thorough report of the council meeting.

Next New Member Classes / Curriculum

- § The next classes will be: September 20, 8:45 – 10:00 am (class 1), September 27, 11:30 am – 1:30 pm (class 2) and new members will join October 11.
- § The classes after that will be: November 1, November 8 and join November 22.
- § Catherine Foote and Kathy Kripps will work together on writing down the curriculum for the new member classes.
- § It is uncertain who will teach the classes.

Next Meeting

- § There will be no meeting in July
- § The next meeting will be August 12. (It would usually be the third Wednesday, August 19, but Ann will be gone that week, so the group decided to have the meeting a week early).

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm

Minutes recorded by Roberta Hollowell