

New Members Board Minutes August 12, 2009

Present: Ashley Kloess, Christy McDanold, Kate Nelson, Gina Massoni, Catherine Foote, Jeff Hancock, Roberta Hollowell, Ann Giesel (Chair)

Gina led devotions.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved, with one minor correction.

Claudia Patton and Gretchen Hull were thanked publicly for their years of note sending to visitors to our church at the June 28 worship service. When the congregation was asked who here had received a note for these women, about half those attending stood up. Their work at making visitors feel welcome is greatly appreciated by us all.

Jeff Hancock continues to fill his **Greeter List**, adding some people here to that job on various Sundays. We look forward to an easier Fall schedule, when the Ruckers will return to the North Doors, their “regular station.”

The next **New Members Class** will be September 20 and 27, to be joining October 11. On September 20, because it is the Church Picnic and Homecoming Sunday, the class will meet at 8:30 AM, before worship. Catherine Foote will be leading the classes. There will be no snacks Sept. 20, unless we hear that children will be there and needing them. Christy will coordinate this, if needed. On Sept. 27, the group will meet after worship and be offered a lunch, to be coordinated by Kate.

Another New Members Class is scheduled for Nov. 1, 8; joining Nov. 22.

Regarding **Letters to be sent inviting people to these classes**, Roberta and Ann will be refining the files of visitors generated by John Coleman, and confer with Catherine, for a final decision. Ann prepared a Sample Letter and we reviewed it, making very few suggestions. Catherine will make personal telephone calls to potential joiners, showing the interest and support of the ministers in enlarging our membership by embracing these individuals, as they are now, on their faith journeys. We are grateful for the many calls made last year by Jim White; they were an embodiment of the welcoming and inclusive church we hope to be.

We plan to have a **Welcome Reception** October 11, honoring new members who join that day. George Burns will be asked to volunteer to provide the cake.

Bios: We are still trying to get ahead of the game with these, so they can be included at time that new members join. Having the joining two weeks after the last class should help. Bio Forms will be given out the first meeting; Catherine suggested asking Margaret Rose to make some follow-up calls, when needed, to get the bios in. The **pictures in the Church and Home** will be of a better quality if they are made into black and white photos before being sent for photocopying. “Photoshop” can do this. Photographer Jeff

Hancock will do this with future pictures. Pictures for the Oct. 11 joining will be done by Kate Nelson, for Jeff will not be in church that day.

Christy reported on her further thoughts about **Sponsors for our new members**. She handed out a draft of the tasks of sponsorship, which we discussed briefly. We thought it good for "the relationship" of Sponsor/New Member to be limited in time, as a formal relationship. We liked the idea of publicly recruiting people who would like to be Sponsors. Catherine helped us refine what it is that Sponsors can do, not only to introduce newcomers to "The Church," but as people of this faith community on unique faith journeys. Sponsors could share their own history of connection with this congregation. WE do want them to show up for the joining Sunday.

We talked about helping already existing members to think in terms of hospitality, Christian Hospitality. The idea of having a **Forum on Hospitality** was mentioned, helping us become more intentional as an open community. We want to be moving toward a norm of easy connections with visitors, just having that be "what we do" in our worshipping community.

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 16, 7:00PM in the Lounge. George is on for opening devotions and closing prayer. Ashley will do the Minutes. The October meeting, October 21, is one Ann cannot attend. We decided to ask George Burns to lead us for that meeting; Gina will be a back-up, if he cannot do it.

The meeting was adjourned in record time, with Gina driving the agenda forward and all of us grateful for her valuing her own and our time in the meeting.

Minutes recorded by Kate Nelson