

September 15, 2009

Meeting Notes

LRP

**Attendees – Fran Harbeson, Mike Shelton, Lamar Carney, Hunter Harris**

**Apologies – Steve Robbins, Jim Hamilton, Shannon Raglin, Jeff Bowers, Kari Goforth**

### **Meeting Agenda**

1. 3 Colors WNL

a. We have 30 books on site, with 20 signed up to attend to date.

b. Teachers

i. Confirmed – Phil Dunham & Judy Herrmann, Carol and Jim Wylie, Kari Goforth & Steve Robbins, Fran Harbeson, Hunter Harris & Mike Shelton, Shannon Raglin

ii. Jim Hamilton is a back up on occasion

iii. Willing to help, but not lead – Angie Helwig

c. How to teach?

Held the first meeting with the facilitators, they are considering how to teach the course. Final meeting for review is September 22, 2009.

2. Session Retreat Follow Up

a. Clerk Recommendation

**The motion is to have the Stated Clerk of Session be a non-voting position to be filled by a non-sitting Elder; with the Elder to be elected by the Session on recommendation of the Head of Staff. The Clerk must be elected annually, but can serve consecutive terms. Book of Order G-9.0203**

b. Litmus Test

The proposed Litmus Test was reviewed by the group, including email feed back from members not in attendance. This Litmus test is basically a restatement of the Mission Statement. As such, the group felt it might be best to combine this with the proposal to Session to form a task force to look at the litmus test along with the organizational structure of the session.

#### PROPOSED LITMUS TEST

- i. Are we affirming Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church?
- ii. Is it Christ centered?
- iii. Is this biblically based?
- iv. Does this inspire and facilitate a friendly and open family of believers?
- v. Does this help our membership grow spiritually?
- vi. Does this serve others either locally or globally?
- vii. Does this capture the strengths of SPC?
- viii. Does this focus the efforts of the members of SPC?
- ix. Does this answer God's call for SPC?

As a result of this conversation – the **recommendation to session is to set up a task force, with one person from each ministry team to prepare a litmus test to review the functions within the Church and how they align with the guiding principles. (a copy of a “litmus test” developed at the presbytery follows at the end for reference) This would be a building block to lead to a recommendation on the structure and the organization of SPC. The team would align these functions within our Mission and Guiding Principles, with the ultimate goal of preparing a recommendation on the structure of the session long term.**

Our recommendation includes a time line

October Session Meeting – recommendation on team members and session approval

January Session Meeting – Litmus Test Proposal from Task Force

April Session Meeting – review of functions in the church and ministry teams using the litmus test

July Session Meeting – Deliver the recommendation on the organization and structure of Session, with an implementation plan to allow for the change over in the 2011 church calendar year.

c. Update the Operations Manual

i. Nominating Committee?

The Operating Manual has been updated and will be sent out to Session for review prior to the September Session Meeting with the intent of approving during the September meeting. A new update was received and included in the operations manual.

3. New Elder Training Planning

a. Dates Set and topics set

- i. October 18, meet prior to cluster meeting, introduce three colors, and ask new elders to complete the starting point.
- ii. October 25 or November 1 (Mike to confirm) – building on the 3 colors, Mike and Lamar to lead a session on the spirituality of an elder and role as a spiritual leader. Homework is to have the new elders complete the gift test in 3 colors.
- iii. November 7 – turn in the 3 colors gift test, short conversation on the gifts with Mike prior to the session at the Presbyterian Village. Pass on the gift results to Steve for inclusion in the computer program.
- iv. November 16 – meeting at Hunter’s House, conversation around gifts and use, along with the a review of the basic duties of an elder, both from the SPC and the Presbytery perspective.

4. 2010 Asking Budget – reviewed, the first items to cut are the annual meeting and the celebration event.

Include in the budget an overnight retreat

Budget Items

3 Colors Training	\$ 500	Books Primarily
Overnight retreat	\$1,500	
Regular retreat	\$ 500	
Annual Report Printing	\$ 800	
Celebration Event	\$ 500	
Annual Meeting	\$ 750	
TOTAL	\$4,550	

**MISSION PROJECT ASSESSMENT GUIDE**

**for use by Local Congregations**

**Organization Information about the Project:**

- What is the primary purpose of the project/agency? Whom does it serve?
- Annual Report provided that is easy to understand and clear about income and expenses
- Service Figures - how many people are served by the project each year? What is the percentage of budget money that is direct service vs. administration costs?
- Audit done annually?
- Personal testimony - do you have the ability to hear first-hand about the work of the project?
- On-site visits - is it possible to visit and see first-hand the work that the project is doing and assess its effectiveness?

**Source of the Request:**

- Who is asking us to consider this cause, group, or agency? (member, outside contact, agency itself)
- Would we consider the request if someone else was asking?

**Fit with the overall mission of the church:**

- Even if the project is a very worthwhile one, does this project fit into the overall mission of our church?

**Involvement of our Congregation:**

- What calls to ministry/passions does this organization address?
- What opportunities for personal involvement of members of our congregation does this project offer?

**Possible Results of Deciding to Support this Request:**

- If we decide to contribute to this project, will we give a one time special offering or shall we put it in the annual budget?
- How will evaluation of our involvement in the project happen and when?
- What kind of publicity will the project provide for our congregation? positive or negative?
- What are the risks?
- What are the opportunities?