

St. John Evangelism Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Donna Hillgren, Tim McDermott, Bonnie Bleich and Deb Walker

Visitors Present: Pastor Toensing, Blyth Dewey, Terry Dittmer, Adam Hughes

Next meeting: Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 7:10 p.m.

I. Opening

Pastor Toensing opened the meeting with prayer.

II. Study

Together, the Committee continued the topical discussion of the book, "5 Things you can do to Witness Christ". The group highlighted with good discussion the material covered in the continuation of the third chapter with Holy Communion being the focus. Continued study starting in Chapter #4 will likely begin at the next meeting. All congregational members are invited.

III. Committee Reorganization

The Committee proceeded through the selection of its Chair for this year. Members ask if Tim McDermott would accept this role. Tim accepted and the Committee approved via Unanimous Consent.

IV. Old Business

- a. Time & Talent Survey – The committee discussed the history of the Time and Talent Survey with new members of this committee and explained the end result being able to import the data returns into the church computer membership database for ongoing use by groups or Boards.
- b. Church Website – The church website and relative usage report was shared.
- c. Doane University Community Tour – Information was shared on the 2017 student welcome day at the City Park in Crete. The Committee will look forward to taking part in another such event later in 2018.
- d. Welcome Folders – New members of the committee were given an updated on the Welcome folders and we are still looking for a way to mount the folders onto the guest book stand for easier access.

V. Open Business

- a. Haiti Mission Trip – Terry Dittmer reported on his mission trip to Haiti where much work in supplying clean drinking water, through the installation and repair of water wells, and taking opportunities to witness our Christian faith was taken and shared with those in most need.
- b. 2020 Church Directories – It was further updated for new members to keep 2020 in mind with an updated photo directory. It was shared that LifeTouch now has an updatable photo directory option. In the future, the committee could entertain and plan ahead with this in mind.
- c. Membership Photo Board – Deb Walker provided diagrams and suggested a mounting technique for the photo board. James Walker will be constructing this bulletin board soon. It was discussed that Bonnie would reach out to the church office and obtain a list of members who've indicated that they enjoyed photography. Perhaps we can use those talents for this purpose. Blyth Dewey also mentioned that she would be interested in spending time taking pictures and providing them to us for this purpose.
- d. Local Evangelism – A discussion was had regarding ways in which our congregation can reach out to local community members in an evangelism effort with Press Releases for special services and/or other such events in which we'd like to invite community members. Deb Walker volunteered to connect with the church office with a request for names of members having writing skills for this purpose. Local advertising

might also play a role. The conversation then moved toward technology, social media and the like. Tim suggested he would investigate costs for entertaining the idea local targeting with Facebook, etc.

- e. Second Set of Greeters – Discussed were some questions regarding the 2nd set of Greeters and who might be responsible for which end of the Narthex. It was thought that this question would probably be answered on its own momentum. We will all keep an eye on how this progresses throughout 2018.
- f. Updated Membership Contact List – An update was provided that the church office is getting close to having a final, updated phone/address directory very soon.
- g. “Everyone His Witness” – The new Evangelism program (short of a better word) was discussed. Pastor Toensing will attempt to find some local LCMS Pastor’s or congregations who’ve experimented with this training material. It is learned that St. John can garner \$150.00 in District grant funds to offset the cost of the materials. It would be a matter of selecting the best participant venue during the church week in order to ascertain the amount of material needed. Pastor Toensing might consider this an option for Sunday morning adult Bible Class, but will want to research some outstanding questions on copyright and sharability of materials if couples were involved.

VI. New Business

- a. Pastor Toensing made mention that the focus of “in reach”, including prayer for our membership, be a primary component of the Evangelism Committee.

VII. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at around 9:00 p.m.