

## SCFC COMMITTEE ORIENTATION & KICK-OFF

Saturday, August 26, 2017

### MINUTES:

Those present: Verne & Ellen Martin, Cary & Julie Kutter, Daniel & Elizabeth Licon, Linda Giesbers, Rob Whitaker, Christine Brandt, David Schlarbaum, Karen Burkholder, Priscilla Peterson, and Pastor Rich Miller.

Pastor Rich opened our time together with reading Psalm \_\_\_ and a devotional thought about being thankful and being humble without fear: "Jesus Christ is a God whom we approach without pride, and before whom we humble ourselves without despair." – Blaise Pascal

We shared a time of getting to know one another.

Rich led in going over the SCFC Committee Orientation handout and the review of our Ministry Organization Handbook. (It was suggested that we post this information on our church website and/or make these documents available via DropBox.)

We spent some time discussing the question: "What do you think visitors are looking for when they come to SCFC?" (NOTE: those in attendance worked in three groups and reported the following.)

- Google address accuracy for our church location (Elizabeth noted that someone can actually call Google and give them an update.)
- Kids/children's needs are very important and what a lot of parents are thinking about most when visiting a church. Perhaps we can move our children's church into the Media Center/Library so its closer to the family, high visibility, good signage. Also, it would be a good idea to include a handout that describes our children's church program for visiting families. (It was noted that "taking children downstairs to a back room of the church without any natural light/windows is creepy.")
- An established church in the community; deep roots.
- Comfortable, personal, connection, authentic, inspiring. "Are you/we okay inviting family to our church?"
- Music: volume, style, etc. (It was noted that this requires sensitivity for the pastoral staff to find the appropriate balance.)
- SCFC has a pastoral staff that integrated with parishioners and on a first name basis. That is seen as a very positive thing about our church.
- Theological questions: it was suggested that we need to be up front about our theology. (It is noted that all that info. is available on our website and also in the visitor packets that are handed out to newcomers. It is also covered thoroughly in our Discovery Point (Membership) class.)
- Visitors don't want to stand out when first coming. It was noted that our welcome process is positive but that during the greeting time in the service some visitors are left to themselves. Suggested that we assign regular attenders to welcome visitors sitting close to them in "their section". They would be "ambassadors".
- A sort of "official: SCFC church t-shirt for all church members, rather than a shirt for certain occasions which means that people will eventually have a number of shirts, most of which never get worn.
- Nametags – especially for childcare/program workers.
- Is the church involved in current day issues? (It was suggested that we are very involved but that we need to do a better job presenting all that we are involved in.)
- Are there ways to be involved in ministries, no matter the age?
- Visitors have a higher chance of staying after the church for fellowship than coming early to the fellowship time.
- Visitors are interested in the preaching style.
- Visitors are looking for a community to get involved with. (It was suggested that the "church as a lifestyle" is something that is attractive to visitors.)