

Jr. High Ministry Team

Gathering Minutes for September 13, 2010

Held in the Jr. High Room

Inviting and Connecting 6-8th graders and their families to God and each other, through Christ's Love.

Present: Paul & Arleta deDianous, Norma Fagerland, Rob Gieraltowski, Dona Lenz, Carolyn Moore, Jamie Peters, Karin Watts, Toria Whiteside

Jamie led opening prayer! Snacks provided by Norma and Rob.

Summer Review: SALT, Cave Camp and VBS all went very well. Lots of positive comments were given about each opportunity. SALT leaders will continue to stay in the Freedom Tree Village and let the college-aged counselors stay with the kids in the cabins. Cave Camp is unlikely to take place next year due to the closing of caves across the Midwest and East. Rob is looking into going to Ecuador next year and it was suggested that we not try to replace Cave Camp with anything next summer (in part to allow Rob the Ecuador opportunity if it works out). We are considering moving SALT up to June (June 26-July 1) but need to make sure whatever date is available at LOMC doesn't conflict with VBS (June 20-24).

Program Updates: Thrive is going well and good experiences with service work at Luther Oaks and wondered if they could take 2 groups and whether a group could go two times in a row since some of the night was a tour. Kids going to play Bingo need to be briefed beforehand about what to expect and how to best minister to the residents. iWORD and Genesis started up yesterday (Sep. 12) with great groups of kids and almost identical numbers as last school year. The new room has allowed for improved use of technology and lots of configuration options. The kids have all had positive reactions to the new room. iWORD at 9:15am is still about half the size of 10:30am Genesis program which continues to suggest that for 6-8th graders, a later option is more desirable. We have great adult leadership and help at both hours with 3-4 adults participating at each!

New Options Discussion: We will talk with Thrivent about leading their "Money Matters" workshop for parent and student in early November (Rob will contact). We spent some time talking about the need for social events, whether there is a need, what we would like to accomplish as well as past historical "data" in order to make some good plans. Sunday evenings and 4th Wednesdays were discussed as possible options. The group also discussed whether separate events for each grade were appropriate. Karin will talk with Alex and Austin Bennett about activities they had at their church in North Carolina. The perceived need for a social (or service?) event is to allow kids of different Thrive small groups to interact and build relationships. Much more discussion and planning are needed but conversation was fruitful and a great start.

Family Ministry Update: Rob gave an update regarding the discussion the Family (staff) Team has had to date. A loose timetable of future milestones was looked at and discussed. The team expressed a desire to keep Faith Shares at the 8th/9th grade (current) place. Overall the Team is excited and looks forward to continued progress with the church's initiative in helping families to grow in faith.

Senior Pastor Transition: Rob gave an overview of the transition process that has already begun. Some general information was shared from the past weekend's retreat with Holy Cow! Consulting and the Team was pleased to hear that Jr. High ministry was considered one of the most important "Islands of Health" within St. John's as reported by those at the retreat. **The Team meets with Carolyn Weese on September 30 from 7-8:30pm.** The Team was reminded to be sure to take the congregational survey and to participate in the transition process in whatever ways are offered and needed.