

MINUTES of EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 20, 2008

PRESENT: Karen Mussen, Dave Emond, Diane Tinkham, Kathy Giovanni, Stu Nelson, Doreen Joyal, Emily Clement, Jean Clarke and Bethany Clarke.

OPENING: Diane welcomed new (Karen, Dave, Kathy, Doreen Jean, Bethany) and returning (yeah, Diane and Stu!) members to the Educational Ministries Committee. She read the mission statement of the church to remind us why we are here and where the church is heading.

INTRODUCTIONS: The committee members introduced themselves.

GROUP ACTIVITY: Emily led committee members in an activity she learned during her work at the State Prison called Concentric Circles. Questions, answers, listening, brainstorming with partners, small groups and the full committee. Ideas included softball game, walking groups, dinners, cookouts, retreats, mailing brochures to new families, Open House in August.

MINUTES: Stu moved, Diane seconded, and the January, 2008 minutes were approved as written.

COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES: The Committee reviewed its responsibilities as written in the by-laws. Diane mentioned that the committee is charged with providing Christian education activities for the whole Church family (including adults). Diane circulated a copy of the committee's month by month calendar of activities.

BUDGET for 2008: A copy of the budget was disseminated. The request for a 16-passenger van (\$20,000) was put on hold for 2008. The remainder of the proposed budget was approved at the church's Annual Meeting. During this time of financial constraints, it will be important that the committee work together to stay within our budget.

SUPERINTENDENT: Emily gave the report of the Superintendent, Dawn Swain. Dawn is responsible for coordinating safety checks during Sunday School, ordering supplies, the week by week teaching schedule, and keeping track of attendance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Jean reported that the Nursery continues to see steady attendance with some new faces. Sunday School attendance continues to be low. The committee will need to look at Sunday School curriculums for 2008-2009 and make a decision. One option is "Godly Play," a Montessori-based approach to teaching. "Gather 'Round," the UCC curriculum, is another option. The committee will also need to evaluate the current year (Karen suggested contacting parents and teachers for their input). Emily will make available several options in the Church Office for EM members to review before the March meeting. The High School Class visited St. Joseph's last week. The week before a guest speaker, Rev. Earl Miller came and spoke about his experiences with Heifer Project. "Pennies for Peace" is a new program being offered for the children to collect pennies to benefit the Central Asian Institute (developed by "Three Cups of Tea" author Greg Mortenson).

YOUTH GROUPS: The Family Youth Group went ice skating at the Laconia Ice Arena on Sunday afternoon. The 5/6 and 7/8 youth groups met together for an afternoon of swimming at the Summit. Last week a small group traveled to Manchester to try rock climbing at Vertical Dreams. Fun was had by all! During school vacation week they will be meeting on Tuesday for skiing, snowboarding and tubing at Gunstock. Free passes were offered by Bob Harrington and Kyle Davis. The High School Youth Group will be enjoying a Progressive Dinner hosted by the Boutons, the Connellys and the Andersons on March 2.

BOY SCOUTS: Dawn Swain sent a report regarding the Boy Scouts. There will be an Eagle Scout ceremony in the next few weeks and the troop is doing well with 14 active members.

CAMP COORDINATOR: Jean explained the responsibilities of the Camp Coordinator. Doreen agreed to work with Emily to coordinate advertising, registration, paperwork, campership funds, unit leaders, and kids. Horton Center is being designed a little differently this year with gender-specific cabins if you register as an individual and co-ed cabins if you register as a church.

KNITTING MINISTRY: Kecia Stanley is coordinating the "Stitches of Love" knitting and sewing projects. There are some expenses associated with some of the projects such as postage to mail prayer shawls to families of Iraq soldiers. The committee agreed that the Educational Ministries budget could support some of these expenses, but the Outreach Ministry Committee should also be asked to contribute funds.

LEADERSHIP: The following positions are open: Secretary, Treasurer, Chair and Vice-Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair are expected to attend the Council meetings held monthly. Diane encouraged committee members to think about where they might want to serve. The committee will make final decisions about these positions at the March meeting.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m.

CLOSING: Stu shared his experiences ice boating on several area lakes this winter and led us in prayer.

Faithfully submitted,

Jean M. Clarke