

Educational Ministries Committee
January 11, 2007
Minutes

Present: Emily Clement, Stu Nelson, Debbie Nelson, Eric Nelson, Sue Smith, Tina Levasseur, Diane Tinkham and Brad Geltz.

Opening: Diane Tinkham opened the meeting with a reading of "Paul's Letter to the Corinthians".

December Minutes were accepted with one minor change. In the Horton Center entry the word coordinator was changed to director.

Committee Member Changes

Karen Mussen is leaving the committee this month. Emily Clement thinks there will be one new person coming on next month but even with that the committee is still empty one position. Diane Tinkham asked the committee on suggestions for filling the empty committee position. Eric Nelson suggested a student to fill the position. Emily will ask Jean Clarke to ask students who have completed confirmation to see if they are interested.

News and Events

Reverend Boutin will start Bible Study class this month.

Emily Clement and Diane Tinkham checked all the Bibles in the Sunday school classes to make sure each class had the right amount for the children. Some of the Sunday school teachers had already checked and put each bible in the right class. If we have more children start Sunday school we will have to order more Bibles.

Mike Marshall will be organizing tubing at Gunstock for the Educational Committee. It is scheduled for February 11th. He will put notices in tower tidings. The committee decided it will pay \$3.00 per person. After doing it last year Diane Tinkham thought that the best time for church members to go would be from 1pm to 3 pm.

The committee decided that Game Night would be on March 18th. It will last two and a half hours this year instead of three and will run from 4:00 to 6:30pm. Since it is St. Patrick's Day weekend Diane Tinkham thought maybe we could tie that into game night.

All the committee members agreed that the Christmas Pageant went very well. There was a lot of good feedback from church members. The committee discussed items for next year's pageant. Some items that came up were:

1. It was too long for the children to be downstairs waiting for the pageant to start during the church service. Next year either the children should stay in the back of the church or an activity should be done downstairs to keep the children busy until the pageant starts.
2. Chocolate coins should also be handed out at coffee hour after the pageant like in years past.
3. Diane Tinkham also suggested that we should start discussing the pageant at the committee's July or August meetings to decide if we want to change the content of the pageant, the rehearsal time of the pageant or even if the pageant should be held during a regular church service or later in the day.

Committee Organization and Leadership

The committee discussed the organization and leadership of the committee for the coming year. Next month the New Year for the committee begins. Diane Tinkham agreed to continue as chair of the committee and Tina Levasseur agreed to continue as treasurer. Sue Smith nominated Eric Nelson to be Vice Chair and Brad Geltz seconded it. Brad did agree that if Eric could not make one of the monthly council meetings he would try to attend. Eric accepted with the understanding that he may not be chair next year. Debbie Nelson agreed to be the secretary for the year.

Church School Coordinator- Job Description

Dawn Swain has a description of her job as Church School Coordinator

Sharing and Caring

Emily Clement discussed the Heifer project that the children had voted on to send their church offering to. She wanted to build on this by going on a trip to a Heifer farm in Western Mass. She will look into making reservations. She is also going to put together a bulletin board on the Heifer project. Emily also discussed the possibility of the church raising enough money for an ark. Diane Tinkham thought we could raise enough money especially if we got the whole church behind it.

Church School News

Emily Clement explained that since the door between the nursery and pre-k to 1st has been put back on, two additional teachers will be needed. One teacher added to the nursery and one to pre-k to 1st class. Tina Levasseur volunteered to do the nursery for the month of Jan/Feb except Feb 4th. Diane Tinkham volunteered to alternate in the pre-k to 1st grade class for Jan/Feb except Jan 14th.

Last day of Sunday school will be June 3rd.

Special Sundays

The committee had a lengthy discussion about having Special Sundays for the church school children. Two ideas were discussed the most. They included a sing- along and helping the Red Cross/Salvation Army prepare a meal when the mission committee does it. Some concern arose on what the purpose of the Special Sundays was and how to mix the different school age children together. The first Special Sunday was going to be on February 11th but the committee thought that was too soon and it was decided that it would be postponed until a later date. Some of the committee members are going to look into ideas for the Special Sundays. Brad Geltz is going to check with LuAnn about doing a sing a long and Emily Clement is going to check with the mission committee about the children helping prepare a meal.

Horton Center – Camp Coordinator

Emily Clement has been camp coordinator for the church for the Horton Center. This year they would like another person to work with Emily. We are looking for a parent of a camper to help her.

Annual Meeting

Emily Clement is looking for people to help out with child care during the Annual Meeting on January 28th. Two adults are needed.

Closing- Tina Levasseur closed with a reading of "Graduation Car" from "Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul".

The committee has coffee hour February 4th.

Next Meeting February 8th Opening: Sue Smith

Closing: Brad Geltz
Faithfully Submitted,
Debbie Nelson