

Monthly Minutes

Cherry Grove

April 2016

Attendees: Rob & Toni W., Bonnie C., Bob & Ida H., Jamie, Debbie, & Becky Sk., Tom & Brenda P., Cleone J., Rob & Cathy K., Matt W., Margie H., Ollie & Karen B., Diane B., Diana D., Jan and Dave D., Guy H., Bonnie K., Jan H., Hannah B., Arden K., Camille R., Theresa S.

Meeting opened with prayer.

Stewards, Rob K.: Stewards point out that giving is down through March, about 9% from last year, and behind projections for this year. Questions asked about if attendance changes might have an effect on this – anecdotal comments suggest a small effect, if any, from this possible cause.

Because giving is down, this has some effect on spending decisions by Stewards, prompting them to bring to the meeting the opportunity to discuss the replacement of the bell tower. Current estimate of replacement is \$15000, of which \$5-6000 has been donated previously. Concern for the high cost was expressed, and the body proposed a number of alternative approaches that might be considered. Stewards are understandably concerned about using general budget reserves, especially with giving down. The possibility of a fundraising campaign was brought forward, though no one was willing to take on the task of leading such a campaign at the current time.

A sense of the meeting is that the bell/tower has enough connection to the history of Cherry Grove that some solution/replacement should be considered. However the body is not ready to move forward at this time given the financials of the current proposal. It was suggested that the body pray to consider whether this is what God may want from us with these resources, and further conversation will take place at future meetings.

Elders, Cathy K.: Elders reported on the task force that has been meeting, following last year's NCD process. Please see the attached report for remarks given to the Meeting. In summary, the task of the team is how to enhance the connections with in the congregation of Cherry Grove to each other and to the Spirit. The group has self-named itself the "Lively Schemers" around the concept of the Spirit's lively scheming in getting the Body of Christ to work towards His goals. Using the image of "building a rope" given during Open Worship one Sunday, the team proposes Cherry Grove go through three spiritual "seasons" of encouragement, equipping, and discipling. This journey would come both from the pulpit and from the congregation, working to better and more deeply interconnect those who attend Cherry Grove, with the expectation of a more engaged and serving congregation at the conclusion of the seasons.

Nominating, Toni W.: Nominating team explained their approach to nominating this year, engaging a number of people (especially those in the congregation that the team did not feel they knew well) in conversation to see where they might want to serve Cherry Grove. They express thanks to those they engaged with, and look forward to proposing nominees at the next month's meeting.