

Report on the December 4 TEAM Meeting

On Tuesday, December 4th the TEAM met at King of Kings. The meeting was facilitated by Pastor Gary Logan, and started with devotions and prayer by Gene Kortier. Pr. Gary Logan reminded us of the TEAMS objective which is to Revitalize Lutheran Ministry in West Pasco County to effectively reach and serve people of all ages in the area by sharing the love of Jesus Christ

Pr. Logan asked the congregations to report on what they are hearing from their congregations:

All Saints

Interested in consolidation. They know it is the only way they can survive. They are open to whatever it takes.

First

The congregation is coming around but are very set in their ways...it is coming but it is taking time. There are a few who are digging their heels in – those are the ones who are going to be a challenge. Pastor Gary Logan reminded us all that grief is the issue – “it is not that people are just plain stubborn”. The representatives from First feel that the joint worship service was beneficial in softening up some of their members.

Immanuel

Coming to terms with the idea of consolidation - their head is further along than their heart. They wonder what will happen to their pastor.

Joyful Spirit

Concern over what will happen to their pastor. They are committed to the process because they see their focus on doing ministry and know it will be more effective with a unified presence.

King of Glory

Even though the members have heard for years about the congregations financial trouble and have heard for the past 6 months about the TEAM efforts the reality of the situation has not “hit home”. The recent move out of the sanctuary and into the fellowship hall for worship has forced them to face up to the reality of the situation. There are a lot of feelings and emotions. Most understand that it is now time to consolidate as they really cannot go it alone.

King of Kings

Most understand that they are not going to make it on their own but there is still resistance. The leadership is presenting temple talks on the following subjects: finance, mission, consolidation, and time line.

The meeting continued with a review of the Scenario memo. There was discussion about how money is distributed after the sale of a building. Who gets the say in where the money goes.

After discussion, the TEAM decided to ask each of the six churches to consider and vote on this resolution in January:

We, the members of _____ Lutheran Church, wish to share the love of Jesus Christ with people of all ages in West Pasco County. We endorse the work of the West Pasco Lutheran TEAM as it has explored avenues of cooperation among the West Pasco ELCA churches. Therefore, we now urge the TEAM to move diligently toward consolidation. Each congregation will have the opportunity to vote on the following resolution at their annual meeting. The TEAM suggests that all 6 congregations hold their annual meetings on January 27, 2008.

A task force comprised of Sally De Priest, Gene Kortier, Pr. Sally Cook, and Pr. Jerry Nordsiek was selected to revise the Question and Answer handout for congregations. The revised Q and A will be distributed to congregations on December 9th and/or December 16th.

Temple Talks will be held in early January to further update congregations prior to the January 29th vote on the resolution. Temple Talks will be conducted by lay people who will travel to a congregation other than their own. The following have agreed to speak: Sharon Bellak, Bill Boland, Mae Haines, Gene Kortier, Bob Memoli, J.C. Pontiff. Pr. Cook and Pr. Nordsiek will assist this group in the preparation of the temple talk.

The next TEAM meeting is scheduled for Saturday January 12, 2008 with David Raymond in attendance. The workshop will start at 9:00 at a place to be announced. David Raymond will be in West Pasco County from Saturday through Tuesday and will be available for other meetings as desired during that time.

Thanks to Pastor Sally Cook for these notes.