

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Agenda for April 26, 2009

The purpose of this meeting is to seek ways to “*move forward together*” as a congregation at this critical time in the life of the community of believers at McFarland Lutheran Church.

1. Opening prayer, hymn, devotion (10 mins.) – Pastor Jeff Tomberlin
2. Overview of agenda, ground rules, and RESPECT Guidelines (see reverse side) (10 mins.) – facilitator
3. 2009/10 Budget Shortfall Presentation (10 mins.) – Treasurer, Sandra Chalmers
4. Question and Answer Period (15 mins.) – moderated by Connie Kilmark
5. Brainstorming in small groups of 6 to 8 persons at tables (15 mins.) –

Please brainstorm responses to the question: *What are the three most important steps we need to take as a congregation to move forward?*

Each group is asked to record all individual responses and to be prepared to share a few highlights with the large group.

6. Report back from small groups to highlight a few of the ideas discussed (20 minutes) – led by Connie Kilmark
7. Determine follow-up actions/steps to investigate promising ideas, next meeting (10 mins.) – Connie Kilmark
8. Closing prayer/table blessing for the meal (5 mins.) – Council President, Jerry Hrovat
9. Simple meal and time of fellowship (meal to begin at about 5:30 p.m.)

Pray... Study... Worship... Encourage... Invite... Serve... Give...

Ground Rules and Objectives

Our objectives are to:

- Prayerfully ask for God's guidance
- Develop a common understanding of our current situation and issues facing our congregation
- Ask questions and become better informed
- Come together as a church family to consider and discuss the future of our congregation
- Share information regarding the current budget situation and the anticipated impacts on operations and staffing
- Identify challenges and concerns and issues
- Brainstorm and capture ideas for moving forward
- Identify the "vital few" next steps, future meetings, milestones, what the process will be, how we'll communicate
- Identify who to contact, how to help, immediate steps members can take
- Sustain our relationships with each other and with God
- Listen to the perspectives and ideas expressed by our brothers and sisters in Christ

We agree we are not going to:

- Revisit decisions already made by the Council.
- Address short-term (fiscal year-end) issues.
- Present a budget for next fiscal year.
- Vote on decisions. (This meeting is not a formal Congregational meeting.)

Respect Guidelines for Small Group Settings

R – take **responsibility** for what you say and feel without blaming others

E – use **empathetic** listening

S – be **sensitive** to differences in communication styles

P – **ponder** what you hear and feel before you speak

E – **examine** your own assumptions and perceptions

C – keep **confidentiality** (*this is not the same as keeping secrets!*)

T – **trust** ambiguity because we are not here to debate who is right or wrong. (*Trust that people are speaking honestly from their own experiences and understanding.*)

Do we all agree on these guidelines for our group? Please show your agreement.

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