

Minutes from the New Hope Family Church Council Meeting September 21, 2014

Submitted By Jim Stephens

Council Attendees: Chairperson Joanne Parrish, Council members: Jim Stephens, Debra Gertz, Beverly Berndt, and Doug Burton.

Prayer to Open: Beverly Berndt

Melford Learning Center:

Dumpster for garbage and bins for recycling.

It was decided that **Kyoko Betancourt** should set that up.

Checklist BEFORE Leaving At The End of Events

Shio Roshini volunteered last meeting to edit the list but she was not in attendance so the item was tabled.

NOTE: Again Council members stayed around after the meeting and spent time cleaning the Learning Center and taking out the trash in bags. We need to foster a strong tradition of ownership of the Melford Center by its users. Let's all plan time to keep it clean.

Budget/Finances for Melford

Joanne will get with **Kyoko Betancourt** to decide a format for an itemized, detailed report by our next meeting. We need to have a clear idea of what expenses need to be budgeted for Melford.

Financial Issues:

Quarterly Report

The end of September will be the end of the 3rd Quarter and another financial report is due for the congregation. We discussed what important items need to be in the Financial Report. Most want to see just the basics of income and expenses and not too much detail. Particularly we want to see the trends whether we are going up or down and a comparison to last year.

Financial Oversight Team

Miken Jenkins was not at the meeting to give us a report on progress of a Financial Oversight Team so it was tabled.

Employee's Monthly Activity Reports

Jim Stephens failed to draft a new template for the reports by this meeting so it was tabled. He will do it before the end of September and distribute it to the Council by email.

Marriage and Blessing Event in March, 2015

Doug Burton reported that planning is beginning for an all-day event on the day of the Blessing, March 2, 2015. There will be sequential marriage ceremonies all day long for couples wishing to get legally married. It will be open to the public and couples wishing to have an inexpensive wedding will be recruited from churches and the community. There will be a large banquet in the evening for about \$50/person which would include their civil wedding ceremony. Following the banquet will be the Unificationist Blessing Ceremony. Any couples from the community wishing to

have a civil wedding ceremony will be expected to attend marriage education training. Doug Burton requested \$200 to purchase marriage education materials for the trainers. It passed unanimously.

Volunteer Service Teams

We discussed possibilities for organizing working teams of volunteers that would be responsible for many of the projects that our community is doing. Serving the wider community and also our membership is an essential component of spiritual growth and the opportunity needs to be available and encouraged for all members to find an avenue for service.

Here are some of the suggested teams:

Events Team: Responsible for organizing events like the recent Banquet and Celebration for 40 Year Members. Future events are Thanksgiving, Christmas, and church Holy Days.

Marriage Ministry: This would include marriage education programs and retreats for the young and older folks. Everything from marriage preparation to couples support would be included.

Ukraine Ministry: Connecting with our sister country in many ways. Supporting them however possible.

Women's Events: Working with WFWP outreach but also creating events for our member sisters, young and old.

Connections Book: A new updated version of the Connections Book is badly needed.

Communications Team: Responsible for email announcements, promoting events and activities, also maybe Sunday Service Announcements.

Reconciliation Team: This team would work on bringing reconciliation among the brothers and sisters involved with various groups under different True Children.

It was emphasized that we need to have a capable leader for each team or possibly a young leader and a mentor.

It was decided to have one Sunday in October for signups after church for the various teams.

Beverly Berndt and **Doug Burton** volunteered to organize plans for that Sunday.

Thanksgiving Reconciliation Event

On Sunday before Thanksgiving, the Council would like to organize an Appreciation/Healing/ Thanksgiving Day for all members, former members, and members connecting to other off-shoots of True Father's vision. We are all one family and reconciliation and breaking down barriers is something the church needs to stand for, in action and words. We will be looking for the point people to head up this event.

Next Council Meeting will be Sunday, October 5th, 7:00 pm at the Melford Center.

Prayer to close: Doug Burton