

Ministry Team: Learning

Meeting Date: February 9, 2010

Attendees:

Jill Gretzinger
Anita Damon
Donna Haberland

Excused:

Sharon Orsted
Gloria Luebke

Visitor:

Nancy Ashland

Welcome to our guest Nancy Ashland

Items that may require council action:

The Family and Youth Director attended the meeting and informed the Learning Ministry team that the reorganization of the Family and Youth program includes a decrease in one current staff member's weekly hours from 20 hours per week to 10 hours per week starting in May. Staff responsibilities will also be changed. As there was some confusion about this change Andy agreed a staffing chart with the proposed plan will be e-mailed to the LMT members. He requested the Learning Ministry team provide other ideas for the reorganization by April. The Learning Ministry Team expressed concern that they were approached after the fact and are now being asked to provide information when a staffing chart appears to already have been drawn up. These changes would have major impact on the education program at FELC. Many new families look for strong Christian education programs when they are choosing a church and this seems to undermine the strength of our program. The learning ministry at First English has always been one of our strengths and for this reason Jill agreed to draft a letter to the council explaining our confusion of how this type of change would be made with no knowledge or input from our team.

Items that may require budget/finance coordination: None

Ministry Team Minutes: The LMT nursery budget request was cut by \$3,500 leaving \$500 in the nursery budget for 2010. The committee has had long discussions in previous meetings about the challenges of staffing the nursery on a volunteer basis. When this was tried at the north site there were issues of volunteers not signing up to help or not showing up, leaving families with difficult choices in how they would attend worship. The best solution the team came up with was to staff the nursery at one worship time at each site each Sunday. To accomplish this goal the \$4,000 was included in the LMT budget. At this point we will need to reconvene the discussion of how to find reliable volunteers. Families need to know that FELC has a consistent, dependable nursery program. Who takes the bulk of finding these volunteers and scheduling them is a challenge. There have been some members already indicating less nursery care makes it difficult for their family to attend worship, or consider serving on a ministry team. The nursery staff were informed of the reduced nursery budget and decreased hours.

Submitted by: Jill Gretzinger