

Trinity Facility What If Team
Minutes of the Meeting of January 31, 2008
7:00 p.m. Family Center

Present: Scott Heemstra, Jodi McDonough, Karen Barker, Dave Mars, Brian Hector, Scott Simmelink.

Guests: Tom Van Rooyen, Jon Opgenorth, Verlyn Netten, Jeff Guthmiller, Duane Feekes, Leadership Team Members;
Joe Brands, GENERIS

1. Brian opened with prayer.
2. Introductions around the table. We asked Joe back because (a) he was first and we got better at the interviews as we went, and (b) Jon O wasn't at the first interview and his relationship with whichever company we hire is crucial.
3. Joe asks what we learned as we interviewed the other 3 companies. What do we want to ask now that he's back?
4. Brian: What has been the lasting spiritual impact for churches GENERIS has worked with? Joe: Doesn't have empirical evidence, but has plenty of stories. There are many variables. When a church builds a cultural of stewardship, things happen, not all good. If there is a lack of unity of vision, it will be evident. A skeleton might exist in someone's closet (relational problem, health issue, moral challenge, the pastor has decided to seek another call, there is a financial debt that everyone doesn't know about, etc) and will cause problems. It is a spiritual battle.
5. We look at the pie chart. Jon O: It is his sense that the people at Trinity are more generous than the average church. Is it the case that we can ask for/teach more generosity to those? Yes. You ask already generous people to give more, not because they already give a lot, but because they get what it means to live generously. Joe believes our stats are healthy; amount of giving goes back to buying into the vision.
6. Scott S: You only work with 4 clients at one time? Joe: No more than 4 in a given season. So, it could be 8 in a year. If we hire Joe, he would be here 8 – 10 times during the campaign.
7. Jon O: What is his visit like during a campaign? Joe: Depends on what we need. As we create the organization, there is a certain amount of work we can do en masse, but more to be done as smaller groups. Joe's job is to equip the team, which takes more than one meeting.
8. Start time? Jon thinks the first Sunday after Labor Day is too soon. Too many people gone over the summer to get the team up and running. Joe says that's fine, but needs to happen between Labor Day and Thanksgiving if we're doing it in the fall.
9. A very thorough task chart is given to the team; it includes team positions and detailed descriptions of what those jobs entail. Joe thinks that GENERIS might be the only company that has that level of help for the team.
10. Jodi: How many on the team? Joe: The more the merrier. The more people help, the stronger the buy-in.

11. Scott H: Walk us through the process you would go through. Joe goes over his chart with us. His chart represents the optimal organization, but we might not need all the positions. A person working on this team can expect to spend an average of 2 hours a week per person. Recruiting for main roles would be Jon O's responsibility. Then those in the major roles recruit their team.
12. GENERIS includes stewardship educational materials. People need to hear *how* to come up with what they will give. So, they'll need to hear stories of how and why this is done.
13. Jon O: How does Trinity relate size-wise to the other churches Joe has worked with? Most of the churches are in the 300 – 500 range with budgets under \$1 million.
14. We need 5 weeks to do the heart of the campaign: 4 sermons and then a commitment Sunday. The campaign as a whole would last 3 years.
15. Jon O: How comfortable would you be here? This is different culture than the Bible Belt. Joe talks about how varied his experience really is. He would have no problem. "I hope our theology is a kind gift that we can give to each other rather than a weapon we use to bludgeon each other with."
16. Jon O: How do we find the people who might be able to give \$100,000? Joe: Deacons compile a list of 20 names and then we decide who to talk to based on Jon's relationship with the top possibilities. But it has to be about relationship, not primarily about the money.
17. Brian: Given what you know about Trinity now, what constitutes a "significant" gift? Joe: \$10,000
18. Scott S: Some of the stuff you're talking about reminds me of Crown financial. They talk about how every aspect of your life should be under the submission of the gospel, including your checkbook. Do you use some of those same ideas? Joe: **You don't want to do a capital campaign; you want to develop a culture of stewardship. That doesn't happen in 5 weeks; it needs to be ongoing.** For the campaign, it needs to have visibility for 3 years, at least. Have to keep the vision in front of the congregation, and celebrate the milestones.
19. Jon O asks the team: What are the skeletons? Or something that might be a challenge? How do we make the opportunity for the older crowd to be a part of the vision? We can expect a few to move to another church. Also, a handful of people will second-guess our moves. Jon O is encouraged by our inability to come up with skeletons. Maybe we don't have any.
20. Scott S. asks if Joe would share the story of his spiritual journey. He does so.

8:45 p.m. Guests leave and FOT What If? team meets.

1. Discussion of the Sunday evening proposal. Scott H would like us to watch the video from the Worship Expo with the LT and ministry staff for the first meeting. Tentative March 16th meeting. Jodi will check her schedule and we will meet only if she can be there. Karen and Scott H will work on the questions for the meeting. Also hold March 30, April 6, 13, 20, 27 for the other congregational meetings.

2. We will need to be present on the website discussion board. Karen will add some of our “what if”s from the conference.
3. FOT meetings to come: March 13, 20, and 27 at 8:00.
4. Minutes. Before they are published on the web, Karen will expect to hear from the team if anything is not appropriate for public consumption. (Silence is construed to be consent.) We want to be as transparent as possible. But maybe our humor isn’t always for everyone. (What?!)
5. Discussion of who is in charge of what. Fight ensues. ☺
6. Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Submitted by Karen Barker