

Trinity Facility What If Team
Minutes of the Meeting of May 8, 2008
7:00 p.m. Family Center

Present: Dave Van Den Brink, Scott Heemstra, Karen Barker, Dave Mars, Brian Hector, Scott Simmelink.

Guests: Bryan Miles, Cogun; David Dial, Living Stones Architecture; Steve Fridsma, Progressive AE – our Cogun Team

1. Scott H reminded us that tonight is the end of the first phase of our work and the beginning of the next phase.
2. Bryan Miles opened with prayer.
3. Tonight will be fact-finding for the Cogun team. They will ask lots of questions.
4. Went around the table saying where we grew up and told about our families.
5. Church trivia.
 - a. How many evangelical Christian church properties in the US? 400,000 (Karen got that one right.)
 - b. What percentage of church people tithe? 3% (Scott H got that one right.)
 - c. How much money was spent on church building in 2005? \$7.6B (Karen got that one right.)
 - d. What percentage of non-believers is highly receptive, receptive or neutral in talking about Christianity? 74% (Scott H and Karen got that one right.)
 - e. What percentage of 19 – 25 year olds have a positive view of evangelicals? 3% (Dave V got that one right.)
6. Who is our back-up point of contact in case Scott H is incapacitated or out of reach for some reason? Scott Simmelink
7. Bryan reminded us that we need to stay a praying group. Don't underestimate the enemy's stake in the failure of this project.
8. If money were not an issue and if you couldn't fail, what would you want on that new space?
 - a. Scott S: That the community would say that God is in the workings of that facility.
 - b. Brian: Wants people to look at it and say (especially the unchurched) "I want what they have." (Not the building, but the way people are living.)
 - c. Scott H: Lots of opportunities for kids to get plugged in, whether that's through soccer fields or camps, etc.
 - d. Dave M: See the facility used 7 days a week.
 - e. Outdoor ministry, gardens, wildlife.
 - f. Prayer room open 24/7.
 - g. Dave V: We would be missing the vision if we're only relocating people from one church to our church.
9. High-level SWOT
 - a. Strengths
 - i. Willing to try anything

- ii. Excellent pastoral team
 - iii. We do ministry based on the congregation's giftedness
 - iv. Kid's ministry
 - v. Mission-minded
 - b. Weaknesses
 - i. Allow ourselves to live with a low level of expectation. "Good enough" expectation. Excellence isn't expected.
 - ii. Invisible groups – singles (of all kinds), college, post-college, young marrieds, teen-agers for whom the programming doesn't work
 - iii. It is difficult to get out of the mind-set that mission means "over seas"
 - iv. We are physically inaccessible.
 - c. Opportunities
 - i. 3rd place environment
 - ii. Outdoor recreation
 - iii. Spanish-speaking population
 - iv. Development adjacent to the property we purchased
 - v. Our present facility
 - vi. This is an opportunity to reassess communication
 - vii. Increased participation of volunteering
 - viii. New ministries where people feel comfortable volunteering
 - d. Threats and hindrances
 - i. Lack of faith – fear, not dreaming big enough, afraid of the sacrifices we might be asked to make
 - ii. Moving from small church to big church mentality. How to get people from pew warmers to heavy hitters.
 - iii. Apathy of those who are not involved in any way.
 - iv. Difficulty of missional mindset.
10. What makes us unique?
- a. Hispanic ministry
 - b. Exciting worship
 - c. Ability to think outside the box
 - d. Reputation of God working here; a sense of momentum in the community
 - e. Meeting needs whether the person we're helping goes to Trinity or not
 - f. Financially strong
 - g. We're the only one in the classis growing
 - h. We think (but aren't 100% certain) that we're the only church having a nursery that is a teaching ministry rather than day care.
11. What are our assumptions going in?
- a. We've been intentional about not raising specific expectations
 - b. Probably worship space in the new place
 - c. If we discern specific assumptions, Bryan wants us to be sure to tell them.
12. Key Decision-Making Factors
- a. Are we going to reach people or keep people? Which we pick will dictate the build. Reach.

- b. Volunteer or staff driven? Staff-led but there is growing focus on volunteerism.
 - c. Who is casting the vision for the church? Pastors, encouraged by LT.
 - d. Leader Driven or Consensus Driven? Our response is to explain our process for decision-making: Facility What If Team to the Leadership Team to the Consistory to the Congregation
- 13. Sacred Cows? We aren't certain there are any, but we respond with those things we have heard the most vehement conversation about:
 - a. Organ
 - b. Kitchen at new facility
- 14. What would people like to blow up/take a sledge hammer to?
 - a. Organ
 - b. Green carpet
 - c. Elevator
- 15. Schedules
 - a. Kick-off: May 8, 2008
 - b. Discovery Meetings (2+ days): 6/2 and 6/3
 - i. Start to identify the people or groups or ministry areas that we want the Cogun team to interview during this time. Who do we want to have a voice at this next level? How many at one time? More than 4 or 5 doesn't allow all to talk.
 - ii. Someone from this group needs to be with them for all the meetings. Provides context.
 - c. Transforming Church Index unpack call: TBD
 - i. 140 question on-line questionnaire
 - ii. Appoint someone who is the point person here to get the word out and set it up.
 - iii. Get college students to take it from home.
 - iv. Start date: TBD
 - d. Demographics unpack call: TBD
 - e. Budget, programming and concepts: 6/23 and 24
 - f. Budget, Master Site Plan, and concept layouts: 7/14 and 7/15
 - g. Budget, Floor plan, elevation & 3D: 7/28 and 7/29
 - h. Budget, floor plan, elevations, & 3D sign-off: 9/8 & 9/9
 - i. Present Range Of Value Estimate: 10/20
 - j. CSC: 11/16 (pledges)
- 16. At 12:06 a.m. the entire team burst into Let My People Go, led by Scott S.
- 17. Action items
 - a. Give Bryan the contact at church who will administer TCI as soon as possible
 - b. David V to give Bryan church financials by 6/1/2008
 - c. Scott H to get Bryan Civil Engineer contact info
 - d. Scott H to give Bryan attendance info by ministry segment by 6/1/2008
 - e. Scott H to send Bryan topographical survey when complete
- 18. Meeting adjourned with prayer at 12:18 a.m.!!!

Ideas/Wisdom/What If's we took away from the meeting:

- Let's put the church floor plan on the website so people looking to come to our church can have an idea of the layout before they get there.
- The number of text messages a day exceeds the number of people on the planet.
- One of our responsibilities is that if we hear of someone/s who are struggling with the decision, let Tom VR know. He has the ability and passion to talk with them.
- www.creativeanimation.com
- When your memories exceed your dreams, the end is near.
- Bryan asks where the 3rd place in town is. We say it depends on age group. Groups not having a good 3rd place are teenagers, families with young children, post-college/singles.
- We need to know what we're going to do with our present facility. This decision will need to be made fairly soon because this decision will impact the rest of the decision-making for the new facility.
- What if we have a new members class that everyone has to take before we move out there?

Submitted by Karen Barker