

Report of the Education and Transformation Ministry Area To June CLT

Church Camp

We had 31 “live in” attendees, and 3 day visitors at church camp this year. Because of the number of attendees was a lot lower than the minimum number required for Luther Heights, we made a loss of \$730.00. I sent out a feedback form to both attendees and non attendees, covering everyone for whom I have an email address. This covered 28 attendees and 41 non-attending families. I received 4 replies from attendees, and 5 from non-attendees, although some responses were family responses rather than individuals. I asked questions about timing, frequency, cost, programming, and whether people thought the camp should be subsidised from the church budget. Given the significant loss this year, I was hoping to get a clear picture of what people think about having church camp subsidised, but given the low response rate, it is not possible to get a definitive picture of what the congregation thinks. Even in the small sample from the responses, there was a wide range of opinions.

The most comprehensive answer came from Stephen Peake. His response, which probably sums up the situation, is as follows

“that’s a hard question, because it relates to the degree in which the Church considers the camp as an activity is integral to the “doings” of the Church. If you took the position that it was integral to the building up, the discipleship and witness of the Church, in the same way as other activities were, then logically it would take its place in the budget like everything else. Conversely, if you consider that the camp is a good add-on for those who can be there, & more limited in its application, then you might reach a different conclusion.

If you land on “yes” to the first question, then you have to determine what is an appropriate subsidy, then how it gets reviewed, then how the dates are selected to ensure that all who wish to participate in the “subsidy” can attend, etc etc.”

Because of other activities planned for the beginning of next year, I suggest we do not hold a church camp in March. If we have one, it would be later in the year.

Church-wide Bible Study

At the church future planning meeting held recently, it was decided that we should have a church-wide study series, with the suggestion being that we do “40 days in the word”. If we go ahead with this, the aim is to plan it in the second half of this year, with a view to starting the year with it next year. We will need to get a small group together to determine the suitability of the material.

Adopt a group

Because prayer is, or should be, a vital part of everything we do, I would like to get “adopt a group” operating as soon as possible. One of the mistakes I think we made last time was that we did not have information from the groups on what they would like prayer for at the time of the “launch”. I would like all this in place this time before we attempt to relaunch it. I have emailed MACs, Youth Worker, and some of the group leaders for prayer points, or for the names and contact details of the leaders where I don’t know who is the best contact for the group. So far I have 2 replies.

Social Justice

In order to promote Social Justice among our congregation, we planned a number of events for the year. The first was Compassion Sunday. Members of the congregation who sponsor children through Compassion or any other organization were invited to bring their photo of their sponsored child, which was then placed on the communion table. We then prayed for the children and the organisations as part of our worship services.

It was planned to invite a speaker from TEAR to our services in August, however, with all of the other activities of our congregation, particularly our involvement with Operation Christmas Child, this may be delayed until next year.

We will also produce a combined list of “useful gifts” when the new catalogues are available from the various organisations.

Small Groups

At present we have 2 operating small groups. Two others which were supposed to continue after Lent have been disrupted by various events. There has been a request from 2 of our members to start another group.

Glenys Taylor
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