

Notes from Unglued Church Project Open Gathering December 10, 2018

Present: Betty Bauer, Wally Blyth, Beverly Callahan, Gale Dyke, Larry Dyke, Vickie Eggleston, Joanna Elletson, Martha Goodman, Jim Holding, Cindy Knapp, Kathy Lang, Gloria Lasher, John Lasher, Tom Osborn, Ray Pring, Jennifer Rossey, Bob Sears, Lynn Sears, Lynda Slocum, Rebecca Taylor

The gathering began in prayer with refreshments in hand

Rebecca took a few minutes to briefly share about the opportunity to participate in the Presbytery's offering of the Unglued Church Project and the response of the twelve persons who committed to the nine-month process which was completed in September

Discussion of the new coffee ministry at Warren Apartments followed; it will take place once a month with rotating teams of volunteers; the next gathering will be Wednesday, December 12, 2018 from 10:00-11:30; residents were also interested in Christmas caroling on the 22nd

Discussion of the mission conviction: "Following Christ so all may thrive," with particular focus on the word "thrive;" seeking to address issues in community that hinder thriving such as loneliness, homelessness, unemployment, transition from prison, etc.; the hope is to discern ministries that help the congregation live into this mission conviction

Discussion of the possible use of the manse (once vacated) as a gathering place for groups to meet or as a halfway house and center for transitional services for the formerly incarcerated

Information shared about the "Muffins for Moms" event which grew out of the Christian Education committee and the community Bible School; desire for supportive events that do not require ongoing regular commitment; possible sledding outing at Beaty Park; discussion about potential "Donuts for Dads" ministry and afterschool opportunity during the winter months

Clarification about the purpose of the Unglued Church Project process: focus was not to increase church membership in order to secure more donors but rather to enliven membership as it lives into its mission conviction, making a difference in the community so the community may thrive; "success" cannot be measured in numbers

Discussion of other ideas under consideration: laundry facility on lower level of the building for persons in need; safe place for children; doggie bags dispensers with inspirational quotes; pickle ball in Fellowship Hall, streaming/recording/broadcasting worship service

Other ideas expressed: coffee one day a week at church; increasing engagement with support groups; ministry at the Y

Reminder that the group has no official authority to make decisions – Session must approve

Suggestion that the name be changed

NEXT GATHERING FOR CONVERSATION: Saturday, January 19th, 2019 at 9:00 AM