

## **Senior Leadership Team Update to the Congregation**

### **January 20, 2010**

Here's a look at what went on at the January 20, 2010 meeting of the Senior Leadership Team:

- At 6:30 pm President Terry VanDerAa opened the meeting with a devotional that centered on the significance of being transformed into the likeness of our God. It is the prayer of the SLT that our efforts will lead to that transformation for our entire congregation.
  
- Gregg DeMey spent an hour with the team explaining some elements of his vision of the future of our ministry at Elmhurst church. The discussion was initiated by the SLT in view of the upcoming staff transitions, particularly Bert DeJong's anticipated retirement in 2011. The SLT is beginning to discuss senior staffing needs and configurations for the next chapter of our congregational life.
  
- The Coffee Break Team presented a report that highlighted the wonderful way that God continues to be at work in this core ministry. Kim Hoff and Laura Boot shared stories of how the Bible study is both deepening the understanding and transforming the relationships of the women who attend. As one participant commented "It feels like God reveals the perfect things to me each week through our discussions – almost more than I can wrap my mind around sometimes."
  
- Doug Bardolph, Building and Business Manager, reports increasing rental of our building to community organizations. The SLT supports rentals that will bring new people into our building and builds a growing awareness of our presence in the community. Recent rentals include Spirito Chorus, Elmhurst Model Railroad Club, a corporate sales training event, Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra and Chicago Youth Theater.
  
- The Further in Faith team has begun discussions with the city of Elmhurst regarding the use of our parking lot for a Farmer's Market during the spring, summer and fall months. The city has reacted favorably to the concept and will inform us of the steps necessary to sponsor such an event. Parking lot space would be rented to vendors on a weekly basis. It is another way in which we can draw attention to our presence in the community.
  
- The SLT finalized a ten question stewardship survey that will be distributed on January 24 following the worship services. Each family in our congregation is asked to complete one survey. The survey will be available on line at [elmhurstcrc.org](http://elmhurstcrc.org). Results of the survey will help us understand your perspective on stewardship and thus help shape the budget process for the coming church year.
  
- Ordinarily the SLT meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. Any member of the congregation may appear before the SLT at the opening of the meeting. If you wish to do so, please inform Secretary Paul Buikema or Pastor Bert DeJong. Because of

the lengthy agendas at the regular meetings, two special meetings have also been scheduled. On February 10 the SLT will meet following the Town Hall meetings to discuss a stewardship campaign. These campaigns are designed to help organizations anticipate annual income so that budgets can be planned within income pledges. The SLT will consider whether or not such an annual campaign would be a helpful tool in our budgeting process.

A second special meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 10. The agenda will be to consider the vision of our congregation for the next chapter of ministry. The team will discuss how and when such a visioning process might take place and those who should be included on a vision team.

- The next Town Hall meeting of the SLT with all interested persons will be held on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:30 pm. The earlier start will allow choir members and others with ministry responsibilities to attend at least part of the meeting. Please submit questions in writing for the SLT prior to the meeting. They can be given to Bert DeJong or left at the church office.

The three hour SLT meeting closed as Bert DeJong led in prayer at 9:30 pm.

You are always welcome to appear at the beginning of an SLT meeting to offer a suggestion or raise a question. Please schedule your visit with a SLT member and prepare your thoughts to fit a five minute time frame.

Want to talk to an SLT member? You can contact Bert DeJong, Paul Buikema, David Zeilstra, Tim Ellens, Arnie Koldenhoven, Ken Hoving, Rob Petroelje, Rick Bulthuis, or Terry VanDerAa.