

House Church Leadership Committee MEETING
Church Annex
Date: 5/8/2018

Attendees:

Rick Gausmann	Chairman/HC Poquoson Central and West
Angela Render	HC Valmoore & HC Westover
Debbie Scott	
Karol Clark	
Sheila Horan	HC Woodlake & HC Coventry
Kathy Stocchetti	HC Tabb Lakes & HC Kiln Creek
Nate Garn	HC Grafton

Missing:

Dave Kenneally	Vice-Chairman/HC Poquoson North
Connie Topp	HC Running Man
Sharon Bender	HC Tabb High & HC Carey's Chapel
Dave Stallard	HC Poquoson East

House Churches without leaders:

HC Poquoson Central; HC Poquoson West

Old/New Business: Future of House Church

Rick started the meeting with prayer and highlighted the following suggestions regarding house church:

- Maintain the integrity of Active units
- Invite new people
- Do away with what is not working
- Include in Committee(s) that report to the parish council
- Soup Suppers
- Communicate

Each person reported on the input from their house churches, including those who sent in comments. All the input comments have been documented and are attached. The main points of the comments were:

- Community is important and the house churches are a way to form communities
- Those attending active house churches like what their house church is doing.
- Invite others (entire house churches and/or individuals) to come to the active house churches
- Focus of the house churches is/should be community and social (faith formation can be included but the parish offers many avenues for faith formation now)
- The house churches no longer function as they were originally intended to (Terry Johnson wrote an excellent summary of the history of the house church – see attached).
- Families could be encouraged to come by offering more social activities for the entire family or have teens work with young children while adults have some time for faith formation or discussion. Social activities could include playing games.
- If we were continuing as geographic locations, we would need more support from the church/pastor to encourage people to come and explain why it would be important for them to come.

We discussed the inputs and a suggested proposal was put forward for consideration:

- Eliminate house church as a chartered entity. Have them be faith communities or ministries that people can choose to attend voluntarily (no one is assigned to any group).
- We could set up the current three active house churches to include/invite other house churches in neighboring areas to join. The three would be: Grafton, Tabb (Woodlake Crossing/Coventry), and Poquoson. Each could make a name for their group and set up their meeting dates/times and focus as each group wants.
- It was proposed that Poquoson would include: Poquoson East, Central, West and North, Valmoore and Westover. Tabb would include: WoodLakecrossing, Coventry, Tabb High, Cary's Chapel, Tabb Lakes, and Kiln Creek.
- The House Church Leadership Committee would no longer be needed
- The soup suppers would still be covered by these three groups – each could take on two suppers and reach out to different people in the house church for each supper.

Actions to do:

- Discuss proposal with pastor, and active house churches
 - Decide what ministry these groups would fall under: Faith Formation, Evangelization, Community Life or some other ministry?
 - Decide how best to group the inactive house churches (initially – since people may select any group they want to).
 - How do disseminate information (have all information comes through parish office?)
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- Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 12, 2018