

Wesley United Methodist Church May 20, 2006 Retreat

Purpose: To review the current programs offered for children and youth, determining what Wesley is doing well for them and then discussing what changes or new and different programs and activities need to be established.

Invited to attend: Education, Membership/Evangelism and Worship Committee Members, Parents of Sunday School children and youth

In Attendance: Carolyn Ashlock, Radine Banks, Caroline Close, Barbara Dethlefsen, JeanAnn Lansche, Phil Maxwell, Marilyn Moore, Stella Rous, Anne Scott, David Scott, Nick Strobel

What Wesley currently does well with children and youth:

Sunday School:

- Opening worship where 10:30 a.m. worship service format and music are taught
- Cokesbury curriculum which follows lectionary
- Dedicated teachers

Youth invited to be in Chancel Choir and Bell Choir

One Room Sunday School during summer

Vacation Church School

What Wesley needs to do in the future with children and youth:

Establish a long-term commitment to youth from everyone in the church family.

Listen to what the youth want to be doing at Wesley.

Offer a confirmation class in which youth learn about the importance and need to participate in both Christian Education and Worship

Involve children and youth in the worship service to a greater extent than at present:

Invite them to participate in the following: Acolytes, Communion Servers, Lay Readers, Ushers, Greeters, Coffee Table, Flower Arrangers

Provide an activity for young children during the worship hour

Provide Youth Group on a weekly basis.

Provide youth group service projects

Create opportunities for children and youth to feel church "ownership"

Serious commitment to *youth* ministry will require a paid youth director with several years of commitment from the congregation. Need to discuss this with congregation to see if such a commitment is actually present.

Immediate Follow-up to This Retreat:

Stella Rous will meet with the Senior High Sunday School class members tomorrow and ask them to brainstorm ways in which they want to be a part of Wesley. This will encompass the worship service, Sunday School, Youth Group, and any other programs and activities. (Note: There were nine youth present for that discussion.)

The Education, Membership/Evangelism and Worship Committees will take this information and the information obtained by Stella Rous from the youth Sunday School discussion and will begin to plan for the fall.