

## **Elder Leadership Team Meeting Wednesday May 4, 2011**

All Elders were present except Dave Fyffe, who was sick. Pastor Henry and Nic were present to give their monthly reports. Carlos Duran from Mobilizing Muscatine Excellence was present to explain the Health and Wellness Fair proposal.

1. We discussed a Health and Wellness Fair to be held on Saturday May 21 during the River Bend Food Pantry giveaway and also on Sunday May 22 after the worship service. Our Local Missions Team unanimously recommends that we offer it at both times, to reach the customers at the food giveaway and our own congregation. We will not need to provide volunteers for the event, except to man any tables that we sponsor (probably one for the Community Character Camp and one for the Mulford Garden). Carlos answered questions about the event and about his own background. We decided to extend an invitation to Mobilizing Muscatine Excellence for this event on Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, as proposed.

Henry will contact the organization about our decision and give a courtesy notification to River Bend Food Pantry. He will also notify the Allison family, who will be using the Fellowship Hall on that Sunday afternoon. (We don't expect any conflicts of space, but want those people to be aware ahead of time.) We will also advise the Rosa de Saron congregation so that they can attend one of the sessions for their own benefit.

2. We talked about half a dozen possible people to fill out the vacancy of Pat Coss as chair of the Fellowship Team until the next election in October. We designated our first choice, who will be asked by Tim about willingness to serve. When we get a "yes" answer, we will announce the name of the replacement.

3. We are currently using several different statements as our mission- or vision-statement. Our goal is to identify our best way to communicate what Mulford Church is all about and to be consistent in using it so everyone in the church can articulate our purpose to anyone who asks. We considered four statements we have used recently:

- a. "Helping each other be like Jesus" – Easy to memorize, focuses on discipling, easily understood both inside and outside the church family.
- b. "Plow, Plant, Grow, Harvest" – Also easy to memorize, describes our discipling process, stated as a metaphor rather than literally, might be clearer to church people than to outsiders.
- c. "Mulford is a congregation seeking to grow through its commitment to love the Lord our God and to love our neighbor as well. We seek to grow in worship by . . . (etc.)" – Too long to remember, focused on the "grow" aspect of discipling, overly idealistic.

- d. "A community of believers with a mission from God" – Sparsely used in the past, never really caught on, mentions that we have a mission but doesn't define it.

Each elder has the assignment to mull over the various statements, talk to people inside and outside the church about what each one communicates. We will then continue our conversations about them.

4. The idea of asking people at random to pray during the worship service sermon (instead of taking notes or listening to the sermon) was presented at the last quarterly congregation meeting. We discussed further pros and cons. We decided that the idea needs to be presented to the whole church ahead of any use, and get feedback from people. We don't want people to be surprised by it or to feel pressured by it. However, we do want to challenge people to be more involved in prayer and to undergird our ministries and outreaches in a stronger way.

5. The meeting closed with a time of prayer for the church and its needs.