

Valdosta State Prison/Valdosta Annex Kairos Advisory Council

Minutes of Meeting March 15, 2008, Whatley Woods

Voting Members Present: Rev Rich Wright, Dennis Webrand, Tyson McLane, Roger Mathis, Don Zagorski, Charlie Merwin, Phillip Merwin, Charlie Crews, Tommy McNeal, David Hendley, Jim Boyle, Greg Sheppard, Wayne Fann, Richard Pye, Bill Newcomb, Gene Crawford, Roy Sears, Larry Holland, Stuart Hasty, Charles Everitt, Jimmy Whatley, John Struzick and Lee Turner.

Guest Present: Chaplain J. P. Miller, Chairman Jim Miller, Vice Chairman Pete Pfeiffer and Tom Liner, Georgia Representative to Kairos Prison Ministry International

- Meeting called to order at 6:55 by John Struzick
- Jimmy Whatley welcomed all in attendance.
- Chaplain James P. Miller delivered the invocation.
- John Struzick read from the book of Hebrews.
- John Struzick introduced the following guests:
 - Chaplain James P. Miller, Valdosta State Prison/Valdosta Annex Chaplain
 - Jim Miller, Chairman, Kairos of Georgia
 - Pete Pfeiffer, Vice Chairman, Kairos of Georgia
 - Tom Liner, International Representative, Kairos of Georgia
- Tom Liner provided the following information from Kairos Prison Ministry International:
 - Kairos is currently offered at 360 sites, in 32 states and 8 foreign countries.
 - Kairos has an annual budget of \$1 million dollars
 - Kairos International currently has 10 full time paid staff.
 - In medium and close security prisons, Kairos is reaching 1/3 of the institutions. The goal is to double in size in 10 years.
 - Kairos International has created a foundation under the control of Kairos Prison Ministry International Board of Directors to enable Kairos to move into more overseas locations.
 - The Los Hermanos (The Brothers) program is designed to help brothers primarily in Latin America.
 - Kairos International is looking to downsize the Board of Directors, currently at 65 members. There would be a Council of Delegates representing the interests of the states.
- Jim Miller provided the following information from Kairos of Georgia:
 - He presented a short background on how he got involved in Prison Ministry.
 - Kairos of Georgia supports Kairos in 20 men's institutions, 3 women, 2 Kairos Outside and 2 Kairos Torch communities.
 - Georgia has the 3rd largest Kairos ministry behind Texas and Florida
 - expressed his appreciation for the commitment of the Valdosta Kairos volunteers

- expressed his appreciation to Lee Turner for work done on the Kairos of Georgia website.

- John Struzick entertained discussion on topics pertinent to Valdosta Kairos activities:

- briefed that Lowndes State Prison will change to the Valdosta Annex.
- Concerns were raised about the delay in entering the institution. Volunteers showing up at 8:00am do not usually enter the prison until 9:30am.
- Chaplain Miller briefed that because the morning count begins at 8:00am, that volunteers need to arrive earlier in order to be in place before the count begins. He assured the volunteers that delayed entries should be a thing of the past if volunteers show up at 7:30am. Chaplain Miller also briefed that in conjunction with the name change at Lowndes State Prison, he will also be promoted to the position of Deputy Warden.

John Struzick briefed:

- the state of the ministry in Valdosta is strong with almost 400 residents in community.
- we are planning on 2 weekend per year at both Valdosta State Prison and the Valdosta Annex.
- he explained the relationship between Kairos and Valdosta Prison Ministry, Inc. and stressed that Valdosta Prison Ministry, Inc. supports Kairos and other activities outside of Kairos.
- the next Annual Meeting will be held on September 20, 2008.
- discussion on roles for women at men's institutions during Kairos Inside weekends.
- questions were raised about the possibility of inviting women to participate with us.
- discussion on improving relationship between Kairos Outside and Kairos Inside
- there are new forms for Kairos Inside leaders to use to promote Kairos Outside activities on the Kairos of Georgia website

John Struzick presided over the Advisor Council election process:

- Richard Pye was nominated for the Agape Coordinator position. Voice vote was unanimous.
- Charlie Crews was nominated for the Outreach/Housing Coordinator position. Voice vote was unanimous.
- Dennis Weibrand was nominated for the Financial Secretary position but declined to serve.
- John Struzick was nominated for the Financial Secretary position and conditionally accepted provided it is appropriate to serve as the State Representative concurrently. Voice vote was unanimous.
- Jimmy Whatley was nominated for the Fundraising Coordinator position. Voice vote was unanimous.
- Bill Newcomb was nominated to the Food Control Coordinator position. Voice vote was unanimous.
- Lee Turner was nominated to the Secretary/Administrative Coordinator position. Voice vote was unanimous.
- Tyson McLane was nominated to the Treasurer position. Voice vote was unanimous.

The meeting was closed in traditional Kairos fashion with special prayer lifted up for Jimmy Whatley's mother by Greg Sheppard.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Lee Turner

Attachments:

Valdosta State Prison/Valdosta Annex Advisor Council Roster