

Valdosta Kairos Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 29, 2009

First United Methodist Church, Valdosta, GA

Volunteers Attending: Bill Newcomb (Chairman), Dennis Webrand (Financial Secretary), Jimmy Whatley (Fundraising/Sponsorship Coordinator), Lee Turner (Secretary/Administrative Coordinator), Tyson McLane, Wayne Fann, Roger Sims, Lonnie Denton and Roger Mathis

- Meeting began at 9:00am with an opening prayer by Roger Sims and brief opening remarks by Bill Newcomb
- Bill Newcomb reported that 3 positions on the Advisory Council are currently unfilled (Agape, Food Control Coordinator and Treasurer). Bill Newcomb saw no need to appoint someone into the positions on an interim basis but wait until the election process after Kairos #19 in November 2009. There was discussion about the responsibilities of the Treasurer.
- The lack of Department of Corrections training dates was brought up and discussed. Bill said he would approach the Chaplain about more training dates, especially in light of any potential ruling that all Kairos volunteers must receive Department of Corrections training prior to being allowed to work a weekend.
- The importance of attendance at Advisory Council meetings was stressed. Wayne Fann discussed the importance of getting more people involved in the meetings, both Team Formation and Advisory Council meetings. The lack of reporting by the elected leadership was discussed and those in elected positions should be able to report regularly on their activities since the last meeting.
- The election process was discussed as well as the process for determining active volunteers. Bill Newcomb reported that preparations for elections could not be held by September due to preparations. Jimmy Whatley moved that at the November elections we make it contingent upon the next election to fall in line with the September election cycle. Lee Turner seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. The process of determining who in our community is to be considered and Active Community member and who should be placed on inactive status. Lee Turner will send out a list of Advisory Council positions with terms of service to each Advisory Council officer. The Advisory Council discussed the nomination and voting process for the elections for the Advisory Council Leadership. Lee Turner read the Election process from the Advisory Council Operating Procedures. Discussion continued on the election process. We agreed that electing people to fill an unexpired term of office as opposed to appointing someone to fill the unexpired term of office. Bill suggested the active volunteers could be identified and nomination forms returned prior to the October 31st meeting. The election would be held and votes tabulated between Thanksgiving and Christmas.
- Weekend Information - Bill Newcomb has agreed to be the Coordinator for Valdosta Annex #11 and Sam Sims is likely to be the Observing Leader for Valdosta Annex #11. Anthony Davis may step up to be considered for the leadership role for a future weekend. Benny Kent and Joe Ed Holt have agreed to allow their name to be considered for the future leadership roles at Valdosta State Prison.
- Dennis Webrand reported on the status of Kairos #11 at the Valdosta Annex. The last team meeting has occurred. All sponsor letters have been written, the Talk assignments

have been made. The team is fully staffed. 39 men are on the team and 10 are new Kairos Volunteers.

- The difficulties faced during previous State Observations was discussed and Lee Turner reported on the status of the current State Observer team. The authority for determining who can lead a weekend was discussed.
- Financial Secretary and Treasurer Reports - Dennis Webrand reported that he sent a deposit of just over \$2100.00. 4 different churches are being approached for contributions. Crosses and Freedom Guides are being ordered for Kairos #11 at the Annex. The coordinator's advance has been requested from the state. Dennis Webrand intends to make and appeal for fundraising activities at the 1st team formation meeting for Kairos #19, VSP. Lee Turner reported that he has 2 persons picked for funds accountability during team formation.
- Fundraising/Sponsorship Coordinator - Jimmy Whatley reported on the current status of fundraising and the predicted income from a fundraising dinner. Bill Newcomb discussed the difficulties of having a fund-raising dinner before Christmas 2009. Bill Newcomb discussed the potential of writing all the local churches and asking for a donation of \$100.00. It was Jimmy Whatley's experience that this type of fundraising was very ineffective. Various other avenues of fundraising activities were discussed. The discussion returned to the concept of a fundraising dinner in late January or early February 2010. Jimmy Whatley discussed the difficulties of a Kairos/VPMI fundraiser. Jimmy Whatley said he would seek guidance on this issue from Jim Miller, the Kairos of Georgia State Chairman. Discussion moved into maintaining that separation between VPMI and Kairos Prison Ministry International. Jimmy Whatley suggested that our fundraising dinner should be to support VPMI. Bill Newcomb discussed a meeting with the Georgia Department of Corrections Head of Chaplaincy and will schedule a meeting to discuss the importance of VPMI to the Department of Corrections.
- Recruiting/Outreach - No report. Bill Newcomb reported the status of recruiting at local churches. Roy Sears and Greg Sheppard will be making a presentation to a gathering of the adult Sunday School classes at Park Avenue United Methodist Church. Bill Newcomb said he was making a presentation at the Men's Bible Class at Crosspointe Church in Valdosta. Also, Bill Newcomb is making a presentation at his church soon. Roy Sears and Greg Sheppard made a presentation at Dennis Webrand's church and made over \$1000. Roger Mathis reported that his church has a budget line item for Kairos.
- Institutional Liaison - No Report, although there was agreement that a new Institutional Memorandum needs to be renegotiated with Valdosta State Prison. Bill said he would negotiate a new Institutional Memorandum with the Valdosta Warden.
- Secretary/Administrative Coordinator Report - Lee Turner reported on the status of the Valdosta Kairos community website and what we currently include on that site. The EZRA data from Kairos #11 was discussed and its importance to the community database. Weekend Leader Report and Participant List were stressed.
- State Chapter Committee Representative Report - The 25th Anniversary of Kairos was discussed and how that can be a tool to approach churches, basically to say thanks for their previous support. Kairos logo'd shirts are available. Agape for other institutions can be given to the State Rep, to save postage mailing agape. Personalizing agape for a specific weekend was discussed as the preferred method of agape from one institution to another. The new governance structure was briefed. Lee Turner briefed the importance of the Kairos Participant list that Mike Nix maintains. Lee Turner briefed the council on the status of Coastal State Prison and it's status as a faith and character-based institution and it's potential impact on local "inside" communities.

- Agape Coordinator Report - Position no longer filled. No Report.
- Miscellaneous
 - The Monthly reunion schedule (speakers/topics/themes) was discussed. Bill Newcomb is currently handling the Reunion schedule on a month-to-month basis. The differences in the weekly reunions at the Valdosta Annex were discussed.
 - In preparation for the September elections, we will start determining if our existing volunteer database has names of people that no longer desire to be an active Kairos volunteer.
 - Roger Mathis asked about the information he had on an older brochure and wondered if we had a current summary (snapshot) of the worldwide Kairos ministry. Lee Turner directed him to the specific place on the Kairos of Georgia website to obtain the latest information.
 - The next Advisory Council meetings were scheduled for October 31, 2009 at 9:00 am at First United Methodist Church in Valdosta, GA.
- The meeting adjourned at 10:30am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lee Turner
Secretary/Administrative Coordinator
Valdosta Advisory Council