

Welcoming Committee Meeting June 4, 2015 Notes

Attendees:

Barbara Bartlett, Sherry Belisle, Shoshana Belisle, Pru Schuler, Kathy & Rick Fiske, Joanna Garbish, Naomi Malik, Richard Schramm and Pru Schuler

Summary of Discussion:

This was our first meeting. We reviewed the purpose of the Welcoming Committee; to lead the process of creating a profoundly welcoming community. This is driven off of our strategic plan *Our Future in Focus*. Our task is to develop guidelines (or tool kit) for our church community to be intentionally welcoming to everyone who enters North Chapel. Although, in many ways, we already are a welcoming church some have expressed concerns that we can sometimes appear cliquish. Pru reminded us that North Chapel some time ago adopted a policy of inclusivity for all sexual orientations and gender identities.

We discussed our views on *what's a welcoming committee?* Shoshana shared her experience in *meeting clients where they are at*, being open to what newcomers are looking for and encouraged us to do the same. She also shared that being *overly friendly* with people who enter for the first time can backfire.

Rick purchased the book '50 Ways Churches drive away first-time visitors' and will share with the committee at the next meeting.

Pru gave an overview of what the Membership committee does;

- Alter set up
- Issue handouts
- Put up song numbers
- Choose people to take up the collection
- Coordinating Circle dinners, lining up hosts. This is difficult.

Sherry gave an overview of other social activities:

- Coffee hour set up. It's a challenge to get people to go downstairs.
- Visit to Lake Sunapee
- Information meetings for new members held three times a year
- Book clubs-no longer active
- Ladies night – no longer active

Actions:

Our next meeting is Thursday July 2 from 5 to 6PM. Please mark your calendars. Subsequent meetings will be on the 1st Thursday of each month

Each member is asked to bring to the next meeting three ideas that would enhance our welcoming process and resources needed; people, materials, financial.

Write a *Mission statement* for review at the next meeting similar to the Worship Committee Mission and Key Responsibilities document- Shoshana/Rick

Write a *Covenant statement*, e.g. Our Covenant...We gather together to...Together we will... (responsibilities) Kathy/Richard/Pru

RF 6/9/15