

ENVISIONING A MEMBERSHIP TEAM AT ST. PETER'S

Thoughts from Titus for the first team meeting, 6 April 2000, at the Rectory

BACKGROUND

1. St. Peter's legacy of Us & Them:
 - "Our people have moved away!"
 - "Let them come to us!"
2. Maintenance view of parish life:
 - "Church exists for those who are part of it."
 - "Comfort of the community that is here is most important."
 - "We're an institution in the community."
3. Mission view of parish life:
 - "Church exists for the sake of the world!"
 - "Church exists for the sake of those who are not members of it!"
 - "Church is a community gathered for mission!"
 - What is mission? — Mission is crossing boundaries to meet the other.
4. Mission for the Membership Team:
 - Attract non-members to come to St. Peter's
 - Welcome visitors to St. Peter's
 - Help inquirers become incorporated into the parish
5. Team Concept:
 - History: individual, a team briefly, another individual
 - Chitral De Mel has agreed to chair the effort
 - Team, however, is crucial to the initiative, because so much to do!

WELCOME COMPONENT

1. Sunday social welcome

- entrance greeting . . . mass. ave. entrance & vestibule, flowers, church school, rota
- literature / packet . . . welcome, liturgical hints, ministry directory, registration
- brochure: "how to become a member of st. peter's"
- announcements . . . low-key or high-key? introductions?
- guestbook . . . encouraging folks to sign
- exit greeting . . . rota of greeters after service
- tea & coffee hour . . . circulating, introductions from podium

2. Sunday followup

- guestbook names . . . compiling
- mailing = letter + brochure . . . ensuring office sends out
- followup tel calls . . . here's a real key!
- visits + gifts . . . as appropriate, gifts like welcome wagon

3. Record-keeping

- making & updating cards . . . reference resource for team & rector
- referring names to parish list . . . adding people as parishioners as appropriate
- sending mailings . . . adding people to mailing list during exploration

- annual status report . . . titus's fetish!

4. Brunches / other gatherings

- invitations . . . mailing to list of newcomers
- food solicited . . . making the brunch a gustatory team effort!
- physical setup . . . someone to come over early to get things ship-shape
- presentations . . . organizing the talks
- brunch followup . . . contacting attendees and non-attendees

5. Zipcode arrivals

- commercially available service . . . fee involved
- sending out invitational postcards about spc
- followup . . . maybe, maybe not

• Tasks of the Welcome Component

1. Coordination overall
2. Greeting coordination
3. Sunday followup coordination
4. Record-keeping
5. Packet preparation
6. Brunches

INCORPORATION COMPONENT

1. What are the hooks?

- educational & fellowship
- ministry
- vocational
- recreational
- residential

2. Group referrals

- fellowship groups
 - church school: children
 - ypf: youth
 - sanctus: young adults
 - parents of young children
 - common book club
 - senior lunch
- ministry groups
 - the gamut!

3. Sunday group intros

- "getting to know st. peter's" sessions
- church tours . . . from the tower to the cellar!

4. Discernment

- helping discern gifts for ministry & places to fit
- individual meetings . . . lunch during the week, sunday chats, telephone talks

5. New Member Recognition in Liturgy

- maybe three times a year
- formal public prayer and recognition at the peace
- names in the bulletin

• Tasks of the Incorporation component

1. One-on-ones with seekers
2. Linking seekers with fellowship and ministry groups
3. Organizing group events
4. Coordinating recognition of new members

Personnel

De Mel

Olurem Johnson

Cherrie Cobham

Cryers

Peter Tsebe

Barnet Wallace

Hedy Pocius

Ema Rosero-Nordalm

Anya Reed

Janine & Leighton Richardson

Charlotte Potter

Kirsten Mayer

Fayne Ansley

Fayne Ansley