

FAIRFAX COUNTY CHURCHES & SOCIETY MEETING NOTES

November 13, 2016, 2:30 – 3:30PM
First Church of Christ Scientist, Fairfax

Attendees – See Page 3

Readings focused on Noah and the ark and how he listened for guidance and went step by step.

Diana Goshorn gave a brief recap of the September 24th meeting which included discussion regarding collaboration efforts with the churches on Reading Rooms, lectures and outreach efforts. Attendees at the meeting were asked to discuss with their respective Boards the September 24th meeting as well as approval of sending of zip codes of members, regular attendees and Sunday School students to the Clerk of Fairfax church for compilation and purpose of a demographic study. [Zip codes from McLean, Reston and Springfield have been received.]

Mount Vernon through an oversight was not invited to the September meeting but was contacted in the meantime. Their Board advised they were not able to send anyone to this meeting but requested to be kept informed as they may wish to participate in the future. Minutes of the September 24th meeting were sent to them. It was agreed by attendees at today's meeting that Mt. Vernon be requested to keep the minutes within their own Board.

Several attendees indicated they did not have a clear direction from the September meeting notes of the direction going forward. There appeared to be two tracks—one for collaboration of some activities and the merging of churches. Thoughts expressed were that we need to listen for direction and inspiration. Transportation accessibility is a key for drawing new comers such as a location close to a present or future metro stop.

Discussion ensued with the possibility of churches merging. It was stated that there is a by-law which states that no more than two churches can combine. (If there is interest in such, further research would need to be undertaken.) McLean and Centreville-Clifton indicated they were not interested in merging but interested in joining in collaborative activities in the community.

History has shown that two churches combining in an existing location have not succeeded, but those that came together in a new location - evidence of growth and progress - have done well.

It was suggested that we need to have a vision as to where Christian Science will be in 25 to 30 years or more. Mrs. Eddy had a sense of progress in her vision and is a model to speak to all.

There was a brief discussion regarding Sunday School and the thought of possibly having a Sunday School on a Thursday evening. The sense among attendees was that

transportation and having to deal with traffic would present an issue. Mentoring with students before a big test was mentioned. Engage students in church and bring them into the church family by once a month having them attend a church service and serving as an usher. Work toward getting students to join TMC and their own branch church. Concentrating on young people can be a good inspiration for their parents joining church.

Next Steps

- Collaboration on activities among churches in the community is of interest, but is not the proposed focus of this inter-church group as there are already ad hoc efforts underway to address those activities.
- Possibility of two branch churches coming together to form a new branch church at a new location was discussed. Somewhere along the Dulles corridor, providing easy Metro access, was put forth for thought as there is a great deal of growth in Loudoun County.
- Churches that have any interest in the possibility of churches coming together or joining forces to look at a new location were requested to discuss the idea with their Boards, and ultimately membership, with the thought of touching base in a few months for further discussion.
- Keeping in mind the Noah metaphor, the Fairfax church Long Range Planning Committee encourages moving forward as inspiration directs.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. with the repetition of the 6th Tenet.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Ellen MaGill, Clerk
First of Christ, Scientist, Fairfax

ATTENDEES NOVEMBER 13TH MEETING

Arlington

No one available to attend

Centreville-Clifton

Kathy Fish (EB)

Jaigi Wright (EB)

Fairfax

John Baker (LRPC, EB)

Gordon Bennett (LRPC)

Diana Goshorn (LRPC, EB)

Clare Grosgebauer (LRPC)

Stephanie Johnson (LRPC)

Mary Ellen MaGill (Clerk)

Phil Shutler (EB)

Kim Williams (EB)

McLean

Rod Keefer (EB,RR Librarian)

Keith O'Brien (SS Sup)

Barbara Sipe (Clerk)

Reston

Kay Miller (EB, Asst Clerk)

Springfield

Caroline Schlaseman (EB)

Beverly Marshall (Clerk)

Bill Uehling