

January 27, 1971

Planning Committee of the Council on Ministries

With the ideas in mind expressed at the Council Retreat at Quail Roost in September, we see two strong areas of emphasis for the remainder of 1970-71. We also hope that these would provide the basis for next year's planning.

The two areas are internal and outward growth of Duke Memorial. We are concerned for the growth of this church spiritually, in terms of numbers, and in terms of finances. We recognize the problems of time and conflicts in our busy lives; however, we see the Council's dedication to meeting the problems of our Church as a most important part of the congregation's meeting the challenge of growth in our Church. We feel the congregation and administrative board should be more aware of what we are attempting to do--indeed, with all that our Church is doing. To help accomplish this, we recommend periodic articles in the bulletin and resource speakers at the regular worship service. We feel that this would help all our people to meet the specific challenges of the loss of interest during the closing and renovation of the sanctuary for five months later this year. This is a challenge which must be met by all the groups and interests represented on the Council. The use of the Fellowship Hall suggests a different style of worship than that usually experienced in the sanctuary at the 11:00 o'clock service. Therefore, we suggest: 1) Use more lay people, especially the young; 2) Employ different types and forms of music, both choral and instrumental; and 3) Vary the order of worship. To help preserve the beauty and order of the services, we recommend the full use of the Altar Guild.

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Our problems with the gradual but certain decline in attendance and participation in the Sunday School, choir programs, young people's programs, Methodist Men, and WSCS can be remedied, at least in part, by a concerted effort in the form of a membership drive to bring in new members and of rekindling the interest of the members in the programs of the Church. We specifically recommend a visitation organized by Commission on Membership and Evangelism supported by Council on Ministries of the Church membership and prospective members in March--not for financial needs but for personal contact. We feel it appropriate to disseminate financial information about the Church during the visit but that this should not be the main thrust of the visitation. This visit would be to inform people about work of the Council and what is going on at Church. We further recommend that all commissions set specific goals this year which would pull our people together in such a way as to promote growth, both spiritually and numerically.

We feel that the adoption of a program of support for a missionary would give our people an opportunity to turn outward and to work together in one project which would have many aspects. The financial support of a missionary would give us a specific person to person project outside ourselves.

The challenges before us are great, both as The Church and as a part of Duke Memorial. To see better where both are going, we propose a retreat at the Church for members of the various boards and commissions at an early date.

Submitted by:

Randolph Few, Chairman  
Fred Clark  
Lois Funderburk  
Mary Whanger

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