

WESLEY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
TRANSITION TEAM MINUTES  
December 17, 2009

The Transition Team met Thursday, December 17, 2009, in Room 204. Due to an emergency at home, Chairperson Larry Mettling could not attend the meeting. Annette Gadlage opened the meeting at 6:40 pm with prayer.

Transition Team members present were: Jim Ingram, Bryant Kost, Bill Amerson, Allen Adams, Cecil Knight, Lynn Owen, Vaughan Hankins, Dennis Shireman, Annette Gadlage, and Maggie Short.

Other members of the congregation present were: Vickie Ingram, Joe Brown, Amy Atkinson, Tom Hammack, Billy Flynn, Cheryl Mills, Tom Ogden, Dustin Ogden, and John Hartstern.

The focus of this meeting was to receive comments about using Revelation Tabernacle as a temporary location.

Vaughan Hankins : It is not easy to pick up the church and relocate. Two weeks ago I liked the idea of the mission at the Tabernacle, but, there are problems there. It is not handicapped accessible; there is an issue with mold among other things. Every time the Transition Team meets there is a new location for us to visit. We will have to make adjustments in relocating. The Tabernacle is not the place to go. We will still look for a place to go. We may have to fall back on Christian Academy.

Billy Flynn: There is a lot of work to be done at the Tabernacle. Can we not step out on faith? Any work that we do would give us a great return on our investment. It is a rugged building. There is a mold issue. Can we not correct this? There is a possibility that we may lose members but, there is also a possibility that we will gain new members. I would have to know what the cost for the needed repairs would be before I say "no" to the Tabernacle. We need to step out on faith.

Lynn Owen: The Tabernacle is an old building. Old things can be fixed. I like the idea of everything being in one location. When the church purchased Golden Corral, many, many hours were spent fixing it. They were great hours of Christian love and fellowship together. The congregation needs a focus. We need to get a fellowship going. I will be happy wherever we go.

Wayne Perkins: As you know, I think anything can be fixed. The Tabernacle is not handicapped accessible. There are code issues. The whole building would have to be brought up to code. Whatever we spend would be returned to us ten-fold.

Cecil Knight: Ideally, I would like to move from this building into the new facility. We will have to make sacrifices. Handicapped accessibility issues dampened my excitement for the Tabernacle. Cost of the project needs to be known. We need to pray for guidance.

Allen Adams: I am very familiar with the area of the Tabernacle. I had my hopes up that we could go there. As a member of the Transition Team, we have been struggling to find a place to go. There is so much work to do at the Tabernacle. The church has a big venture ahead. I like the idea of having all church activities in one location.

Maybe if we look past the walls and have our fellow congregation members together, the Tabernacle will look different. There is adequate parking and lighting. The cost of repairs may be too much.

Bryant Kost: The Tabernacle would be a good mission project after we are settled in somewhere else. We do not have enough time to do needed repairs. Again, the Tabernacle would be an excellent mission project.

Tom Hammack: I can see both sides of this discussion. I was very happy to go to Christian Academy but was disappointed in the cost. If we do go to Christian Academy, we would be all over the place with the other activities. I was excited about the Tabernacle. I thought we would do some painting and put up with it. I will be happy wherever we go.

Amy Atkinson: If we go to Christian Academy, I did not expect the congregation to be together for all activities in one location. I did not tour the facility but I drove by. Since there is no elevator, I fear we will lose members because we are not mobile. How would we make the families feel comfortable when they bring their children to the Children's Department? Having some place nice to go is important to new families. I have been to "work days" here at the church and I fear we would not have enough volunteers to do the needed work at the Tabernacle. We have held activities at various places before and have enjoyed it.

Dustin Ogden: I do not have enough information about the Tabernacle Congregation to know what they need.

Tom Ogden: I agree with everything that has been said. I would have to know what the Tabernacle wants. A professional contractor would have to give us the cost of repairs. I can see that it would be nice to have all activities in one location. If we are scattered, we may reach more people. There are pros and cons about this location. We need to know the cost of repairs from people who know how to do it.

Bill Amerson: I do not like that we are in this position. I oppose the process. I will take responsibility for where we are. I recommended the Tabernacle location. I thought it would be a great opportunity for mission. When we toured the building on Monday night some were enthusiastic; but, there was a silent majority that did not say much. On Tuesday night it was a different story. It was raining. I am on the Building Committee and on the Transition Team and we have had a consensus agreement on everything we have done. We are not close to consensus on this issue. For the first time I will be a Trustee next year. We will be moving out of this church. I thought we could do a little painting, new carpet, wax floors at the Tabernacle and be there for a short time. Some people are dead set against it. We are not close to agreement. We need to use Christian Academy.

Joe Brown: I did not tour the facility. Ideally, having all activities in one location is probably not possible. We need to look at our needs for the next 18 months and satisfy our needs at a different location. It would cost approximately \$2 per person per week to attend Christian Academy. We should save \$120,000 on utilities, etc. when we leave this building. Pure economics says it is too costly to bring the Tabernacle up to code. I am against going to the Tabernacle.

Vickie Ingram: I was "gung ho" about going to the Tabernacle. I thought that is where we needed to be. The cost of repairing the neglected building is too much. I am not "gung ho" about going to Christian Academy either. There are things that they could be more flexible. I think we should plan to go to Christian Academy and still look for another location.

Jim Ingram: I was excited after touring the Tabernacle. After talking about the water and mold problems, I have changed my mind. Wayne, the maintenance man at the Tabernacle, said that the pastor of the church owns the building. It is a personal asset. We do not have enough time to make repairs. It would have to be no to the Tabernacle.

Dennis Shireman: I toured the facility in the rain. I was excited about things we could do in the mission field there. One of the doors was bent and Wayne, the maintenance man, explained it had been damaged by a neighbor who ran into it with his car. We could do something for the neighborhood. We would need people for security. I was excited about the Tabernacle and was disappointed in Dave Hussung's e-mail. I have concerns about the neighborhood. We need to partner with the Tabernacle. Get the pastor here and see what he needs. I like the fact we would all be together at the Tabernacle. We need to be more in touch. There is confusion in the church. We need to decide what to do, do it, tell the church, move on, and get excited about it. I feel burdened with the opportunities for mission at this location. I am okay to go to Christian Academy but we need to partner with the Tabernacle. Allow them to come and get any salvage from this building they need.

John Hartstern: I am familiar with that end of town. There are health and financial issues that do need to be taken into consideration, but I think we can trust the Transition Team to hear and make a good decision.

Annette Gadlage: The meeting was opened up to more people to build consensus. If we had not considered other locations we would not know about other areas of town. We have been in this process for four years and we have learned new things and God has prepared us. There is a reason why he showed us the Tabernacle. It may be that we need to make sure we are maximizing mission during the transition. It may be God is saying you need to help the Tabernacle. It may be that when things are clear we are called to have a ministry where we help other churches maximize their ministry. We are a church that cares about each other. We are also good at helping send people out into the mission field. But we need to be stronger in going out ourselves and focus us on working with others. Keep asking God where he wants us to go. We want to be good stewards of of all we have. We need to keep seeking His will throughout this transition.

As there were no other comments, Annette Gadlage closed the meeting at 7:45 with prayer.

The next meeting of the Transition Team will be January 7, 2010 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Short, Secretary