

ALL-STAFF MEETING NOTES // December 4, 2019

EAT & ENCOURAGE

As usual, Kaylee fed us all well. Thank you, Kaylee! We also shared some encouraging words for one another.

WORSHIP

Cora led us in worship. A sweet time. Thanks, Cora!

SENDING OUT DON AND MARILYN PHILLIPS

Don and Marilyn Phillips shared about their ministry (Y Not U Ministries) in the poorest part of the Dominican Republic—how they started, what they've done, and what they hope to accomplish. They're leaving December 6 for a couple of weeks there, and will go again in February. We prayed for them, sending them out with God's blessing.

PETR

John welcomed Petr, saying Petr is a part of our staff; he just is serving in Latvia and is welcome at our staff meetings. This was Petr's first all-staff meeting and he enjoyed it (what's not to enjoy, right?). Petr gave an update on the ministry in Latvia as well as some personal information about the open heart surgery that saved his life this summer. He talked especially about Christmas and his hopes/plans to bless the orphans and the poor with gifts and Bibles.

MINISTRY UPDATES

- Student Ministries is gearing up for Spring Break Missions trips, the Gigantic Garage Sale, and the RIOT Christmas Party.
- Sock It to Salem collected 510 pairs of socks and one pair of men's fluffy slippers for UGM. Also, the MStar Kids Christmas Party is Sunday after church.
- Family Movie Night is this Friday, December 6. Bearscat Donuts is donating about 200 donuts that will be decorated as a family activity. Along with some other fun things and watching *Polar Express*, it should be a great outreach.
- This Sunday (December 8) is the staff/board Christmas Party at 6 in the south auditorium. Casual dress. \$10 gift exchange.
- Christmas Eve services are at 3 and 5 pm. Invitations and a challenge to invite people will be given this Sunday.
- Jo is going part-time in the new year.

XP UPDATE

- The next Financial Update goes out next week. If you've got suggestions, please let John know. We made our November goal of \$150,000. In fact, we were \$63.11 over! We're looking for \$200k+ for December.
- The Worship Pastor search is going well. The 30 applicants have become 6-8, who are all answering a questionnaire on character and cultural fit. A few candidates will be chosen from this group for more extensive interviews, then a first-choice candidate will be

chosen. These candidates are all from outside Morning Star and from all over the country. Many things have to align in finalizing a choice.

- John and Candy are working on the 2020 budget. When it's done, John will share it so ministry leaders will be able to help manage the resources in their areas and will know how our money is being stewarded.

RELAUNCH

Kate shared some of the changes involved in Relaunch and rebranding.

- A big change is that the Information Wall will be on the south wall of the lobby and will be modernized.
- Kate is redesigning the look of our publications, but it's up to ministry staff to retool the content. **Kate asks that leaders look at their publications and write a 2-3 sentence description that explains things to someone outside the church. Then send that text to her by next Thursday, December 12.**
- Rewording/updating of text is requested for all ministry publications or recurring events that have had the same blurbage for years. There's no immediate urgency on this—it's just something to keep on the radar and do in the new year.

Jim shared some about the new look for the website and reminded everyone about the articles he's asked for (write something you're learning or are passionate about) and get it to him before Christmas break.

VISION STATEMENT AND STRATEGY

We broke into four groups and worked through a handout from John for feedback/input on the vision statement, and brainstormed on strategy.

PRAYER

We ended the meeting with prayer for Petr.