

**Harvest Ridge Covenant Church**  
**Town Hall Meeting Notes**  
**January 29, 2012**

Approximately 50 members of the congregation gathered on January 29th for a Town Hall-style meeting to discuss the recommendations of the Second Service Task Force (SSTF). The meeting was not an official meeting and no votes were taken. These notes are for informational purposes only.

A congregational potluck preceded the meeting.

**Welcome and Prayer**

Ken Schroeder, LT chairman, introduced the agenda and discussed the purpose of the meeting. Ken reminded the group of the Leadership Team's (LT) goal of facilitating communication within HRCC. The quarterly Town Hall meetings are one of the means used by the LT to meet this goal. The main purpose of this particular meeting was to discuss the proposal set forth by the SSTF. Ken briefly reminded the group of the intention of the church to use the Holy Manners in all discussions.

Ken updated the congregation on the church financial status as of December 31, 2011. Ken indicated that the giving in December was the best for any December in recent history. Total giving for the month of December was over \$47,000. For reference, Ken stated that average monthly giving is usually around \$28,000. There were a large number of expenses in December, including three quarters of denominational and conference tithes, pension and benefit payments. HRCC ended the year having spent approximately \$16,000 more than was brought in for the year. Our reserve as of December 31st was approximately \$21,000. Ken indicated that the church is "not out of the woods yet", but he was happy with the progress. The LT will continue to monitor the financial situation closely.

Ken opened the meeting in prayer, assisted by Ed Hearn and Betsy Peterson.

**Why is Harvest Ridge Considering a Second Service?**

Jed opened this portion of the meeting by sharing an example of how blessed he and Heidi felt on the birth of the twins. The growth in their family brought a tremendous amount of love and joy, but it also came with significant changes and sacrifice in their family life. He compared this to the changes happening at HRCC with addition of new members/attendees. He asked the congregation four key questions. The questions and answers given are listed below.

Why does Harvest Ridge exist?

- The church is the product of the vision and planning of Community Covenant Church.
- The church met a need in Western Shawnee. In 1997 there was only one other church in the area.
- To lead others to Christ and meet the spiritual needs of residents of Western Shawnee.
- To provide a sense of family to the community.

Why are you here?/Why do you come back every week?

- Feeling of family/community.
- Invited by persistent church members.
- Size of the church/ability to get involved.

- The goal/ability to reach out to young families.

Why is Jed here?

- Both Jed and Harvest Ridge felt called by God to this partnership.
- His leadership meets needs here at Harvest Ridge.
- Harvest Ridge meets needs in Jed's life.

What is your dream for HRCC?

- To reach out and meet the needs in the community.
- To realize the joy of seeing others come to Christ and finding their church home.
- To realize the joy of seeing others develop and use their spiritual gifts.

**Introduction of the SSTF**

Jed introduced the members of the Second Service Task Force. They are: Todd Winter, Missy Lawson, Tracy Livingston and Jan Brownson.

Missy explained how the SSTF met the four staff goals of: putting God first, making healthy decisions, bringing clarity to situations and making smart choices. The task force made the deliberate decision to meet in the community we are trying to serve, rather than only in the church building.

Tracy explained why the task force was formed and why the church is considering adding a second service. She emphasized that this decision was a **response** to growth and an answer to the call to reach out to the community. Last week the nursery had fourteen babies. The Sunday School classes are similarly full. The task force was not formed to facilitate growth, but to respond to the growth that has already occurred. The task force would like to create enough space so that others can continue to join us and to provide additional options to members of the community.

Todd introduced the proposal to those in attendance. Please see the attached proposal. The task force considered two options. Option A was similar to the structure HRCC previously had, with Sunday School between the two services. Option B also has two services with a thirty minute period between the two. Children's worship will be held during both services. There will also be adult class options during both time periods. The youth will meet only during the first service.

**Round Table Discussion**

Jan Brownson introduced the round table discussion questions to be considered. Attendees broke in to five different groups to consider the questions.

1. What do you appreciate about the proposal?
2. What do you think is missing from the proposal?

We then broke up into groups of 10-12 to discuss these questions. We reconvened after 20 minutes to share our answers.

What do you appreciate about the proposal?

- The team did a good job of thinking through all ministry team needs related to a second service.
- Adding a second service allows participation in the service by more volunteers.

- The times proposed for the services are consistent with other churches in the area.
- The proposal considered the needs of both the community and current church attendees.
- Many were excited about the possibility of growth and additional volunteers with new talents.
- Many liked the fact that the team sought input from the congregation.
- The proposal addresses the negative perception of the house looking too full for new people.
- The proposal allows for better use of the building than our current plan.
- Many like the addition of 30 minutes of fellowship time between services.
- We liked that future needs were being addressed proactively.
- The options for services and classes are very family friendly.
- The proposal addressed the needs of the volunteers.

What do you think is missing from the proposal?

- Some were concerned that the service time is now 1 hour and 15 minutes versus 1 hour.
- Have worship team and usher team needs been addressed?
- Do we need a second service now or should we wait until a later time?
- Is a half hour between services too much or too little?
- Should we consider waiting until after summer, due to historic low attendance in the summer?
- Be sure to end the second service at noon!
- Have parking needs and traffic flow during the half hour between services been considered?
- Community/Public relations – How do we let the community know about the changes?
- Concern was expressed about burnout of nursery and children's service workers.
- Is the April 1<sup>st</sup> start date too aggressive?
- The proposal requires a lot of additional volunteers.
- What will the kids do during the half hour period between services?
- How will we describe the revised children's programming to the community?
- How do we prevent the volunteers from being discouraged about the low attendance during the summer?

Ken explained the next steps for the task force. They plan to reconvene and discuss the answers to these two questions. They will then revise the plan accordingly. They will continue to communicate with the congregation on a regular basis.

### **Meeting Evaluation**

Ken then asked the questions:.. What went well? What can we improve upon in future meetings?

- The group appreciated the Holy Manners reminder at the beginning of the discussion.
- Additional time is needed for the breakout portion of the meeting.
- Those in attendance would like to have heard from more ministry teams as to how the proposal affects their team.

### **Closing and Prayer**

After thanking everyone for their attendance and feedback, Ken closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Myers