

Heart of Florida Via de Cristo
Secretariat Minutes
December 4, 2004

Present: Sheila Bender, Bob Blasberg, Rich Buhl, Diane DeMark, Artie Grindle, Del Harriman, Martha Harriman, Jane Pohlada, and Joyce Rodriguez.

Absent: Marty Collins, Jim DeMark, Jan Fry, Pam Hoepner, Jerry Lemcke, and Pastor David Ludwig

New Secretariat Members Present: Jill Heroux, Sandy Moore and Tammy Ortiz

Guests: Steve Beumer, Susan Maguire

The meeting was called to order by the Lay Director Elect, Sandy Moore.

Members of the Secretariat joined together in *Come Holy Spirit*.

Rectora, Susan Maguire, gave a critique of the Women's Weekend in October 2004. Her notes (See separate sheet) were to improve instructions to the Table Professors and a suggestion to update weekend time schedules.

Rector, Steven Beumer, gave an extensive critique (See separate sheets) of the Men's Weekend including several anecdotes related to the weekend. One of the things Steve emphasized was Pilgrim Building.

Minutes: The minutes of the September meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Pam Hoepner was unable to attend the meeting. However, copies of her report were available and passed out to the Secretariat Members. After some discussion, the Treasurer's Report was accepted as presented.

Concern was expressed about the timing of asking new Pilgrims for a donation of \$65 on Sunday afternoon of the Retreat. This will be discussed further at a later time.

The Suitcase Shop will also be discussed at another time.

Lay Director's Report

1. On behalf of the community, Sandy Moore would like to thank Marty Collins, Jerry Lemcke and Jane Pohlada for their years of dedicated service and to welcome Jill Heroux and Tammy Ortiz. (From e-mail, Monday, December 6, 2004)
2. The Outreach position is vacant. Sandy Moore will contact Dick Schneeberger to see if he will be willing to accept this position. Bob Blasberg said that a couple of Temple

Talks have been scheduled. Del Harriman is in contact with Gordon Keister from Winter Park Presbyterian Church to encourage participation in Via de Cristo.

3. Pastor Ludwig has accepted a position as interim pastor in St. Petersburg. Tom McRee has agreed to act as an advisor to the Secretariat. Sandy passed out a letter to the Secretariat members from Tom McRee. (See separate sheet.) We need to think about securing a Lutheran Pastor for the position of Spiritual Director. It was suggested that we think of ways to show appreciation. Diane DeMark has hosted lunch for Pastors in the past. Diane said they are working on rewriting some write-me-downs for the Rollos.

4. Sandy Moore passed out a letter from Tom McRee with suggestions on how we can improve our weekends and increase new Pilgrim participation. (See separate sheet)

5. Several members of the Heart of Florida Via de Cristo attended the special celebration for Mit White who passed on November 25, 2004. It was suggested that a tribute to him be written for the next newsletter. Jane Pohlrad and Diane DeMark volunteered to write the article.

6. Sandy passed out information about the Pilgrims who attended the #30 weekends. (See separate sheet)

7. Sandy passed out a Yearly Planning Calendar for Heart of Florida Via de Cristo for 2005. (See separate sheet)

Leaders

Diane DeMark will be scheduling the Rector/ Rectora training.

It was suggested that the Rector and Rectora prayfully and carefully consider team members for positions that are physically demanding.

Post Via de Cristo

Bob Blasberg passed out the Ultreya Schedule for 2005. (See separate sheet)

Pre Via de Cristo

Artie Grindle reported that he has no new applications at this time. However, there are some roll-over applications from the last weekends.

Communications

Tammy Ortiz is enthusiastic about her position. She has a committee that will be helping her. Diane DeMark suggested that she also work with Sandy Moore and Jane Pohlrad. It was pointed out that contributions from Secretariat members will continue to be

expected. Tammy said it would be all right to send articles to her by e-mail. Tammy will edit the articles as needed.

A motion was made by Diane DeMark and seconded by Sheila Bender that we send a first class letter with return requested to all members of the Via de Cristo community in January expressing Good Wishes for 2005. The motion carried.

The mailing will include a Weekend Application and a Willingness to Serve form. The mailing will also facilitate database updates.

It was suggested that church members put their church's needs in the newsletter. This would provide the opportunity for the Via de Cristo community to do some Action.

Physical Arrangements On-Site

It was suggested that teams from the community be established and trained to help On-Site as needed. This would be especially helpful with the tear-down at the end of the Women's weekend.

Unfinished Business

1. The Grand Ultreya will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2005. Bob Blasberg is working with Jerry Lemcke on the plans for this. They will be getting a committee together. A letter will be sent to the other Florida Secretariats. There will be Hawaiian pot luck. David Ludwig, Jr. has been asked to provide the music. Volunteers are needed to help with the pot luck. Diane DeMark and Sheila Bender volunteered to help with the tables. Eight people will be needed to help cook the chicken.

New Business

1. Easter Breakfast – Sandy Moore will talk with Pastor Kern about the Easter Breakfast. Jane Pohlad volunteered to chair the project. Diane DeMark will help with decorations.

2. Via de Cristo National flyers are needed. These will be ordered by Sandy Moore. Steve Beumer made a tri-fold flyer with Via de Cristo information before the last Men's weekend. A copy was available.

3. If all the plans can be made, the Secretariat Workshop/ Retreat will be held at St. John Lutheran Church on Friday evening, January 15, 2005 from 6:30 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. and Saturday, January 16, 2005 from 8:30 A.M. to 12:00 Noon. Jane Pohlad volunteered to make a sign-up sheet for food.

4. Steve Beumer has suggested that we help establish a new Via de Cristo ministry in the Bahamas, with our aim at having the first weekend in the fall of 2005. This will be discussed further at a later time.

5. Jane Pohlad suggested that the Agape Tent coordinators need to be identified and they would then call people to help. It would be helpful for members of the Agape Tent to have a list of things to do. This would be a good opportunity for those who cannot serve on the team but would like to help.

Announcements

1. The Next Step Workshop will be held on Saturday, January 22, 2005. Diane DeMark will be calling people to help. Tammy Ortiz asked if babysitting would be available. St. John has certain requirements for those who baby-sit. This will be discussed at the Secretariat Workshop.
2. Painting days at the Retreat Center will be February 4-6 and 11-13, 2005. Del and Martha Harriman will organize this activity.

Jill Heroux closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Rodriguez, Secretary