



**SERVING GOD AND CHANGING LIVES!  
COUNCIL RETREAT NOTES  
AUGUST 18, 2018**

**PRESENT:** Jon Evans, Earl Kemper, Pastor Anthony Chatman, Kimberly Chatman, Nancy Agafitej, Brach Waldo, Bernie Brown, Allison Brown, Monica Martin, Angela Martin, Kathy Burns, Lisa Richardson, David Vroom, Sheela Beteet

**Absent:** Jennifer Jackowski, Valerie Oden

**WELCOME:**

At 9:00am Jon welcomed everyone and encouraged everyone to be engaged and participate.

Pastor Chatman said an opening prayer.

**Year in Review:** Jon called on Team Leaders who had served during the past year to give a summary of their activities over the past year as a means to give some history and context to future activities that we will pursue.

**Lay Ministry:** David Vroom informed the committee that they have been working on Council Member Job Descriptions, which are now complete. Most positions have been filled. Time and Talent survey has been updated and a new one will be posted soon.

**Mission Focus:** Betty Dove reported that Mission Focus has a marvelous team and everyone worked well together. All events have been successful. They will continue to support the Citizenship Workshops. All Interfaith activities went well. Betty emphasized that she would like more focus on evangelism as we do outreach programs. Vaccination drive by Trina Williams has been successful.

**Care Team:** Bernie Brown informed the attendees that the Care Team has been visiting the sick and home bound members and serving communion. Judy Rhodes is working with the Hope Center to get donations of socks for the homeless and they are continuing their drive for donations for NAM's food pantry. Blood Drive at Hosanna has been very successful.

Stewardship: Allison Brown informed the committee that she took over last September as Team Leader for Stewardship. They had a good year. At the moment they are working on Lights and Windows before another hurricane hits. They are continuing the work on improving air conditioning problems. Steve is beginning to work on the RR list. Allison requested more assistance for Steve to get all the RR work done and if council is aware of anyone willing to help him to inform Steve or her. Nancy suggested that she speak to Michelle Hokanson, a returning member, as she may know someone that has construction work knowledge.

Finance: Kathy Burns said she had a wonderful team (Ron Christ, Becky Wolf and Robert Brown). Robert Brown did give their Finance Report at the last congregational meeting. Our Designated Funds are looking good at \$124,000. She encouraged the committee to use the funds in Designated Funds. Allison Brown encouraged the Finance Team to educate the committees and update them on what is available to each team, as they do not particularly understand what they are looking at when they look at the finance report. The Finance Team was requested to give a breakdown of the Designated Funds available by area and let respective teams be aware.

Spiritual Life: Jon said no report from Spiritual Life.

President's Report: Jon reported that the care and support given during Hurricane Harvey was a major effort that took up considerable resources during the year. We were able to serve 8 families – both members and non-members. A Disaster Relief Fund was approved by council and a 3-member team was established. Through this effort we were able to give \$6300 to 5 different families. We welcomed 5 new confirmands in 2017 and another 3 in 2018. 11 Council meetings were conducted during this busy year. Significant staffing changes also took place during the year with Monica Martin taking over the role of Family Life Director, Pat Gibbons assuming the role of Office Manager and taking on the role of Bookkeeper following Kelly Fontenot's departure. We are still in search of a Nursery Attendant. In December 2017 the Call Committee called Pastor Anthony Chatman and he accepted the call. Pastor started at Hosanna in February 2018 and was installed in May 2018.

Jon thanked all committee members for their service. The Council thanked Jon for the awesome job and leadership he provided.

Pastor's Report: Pastor acknowledged the important work Mindy was doing with the Youth Ministry and the Youth Ministry's participation in the service every 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday. Pastor also reported that Iglesias de Dios (Nueva Vision) gives \$500 per month and the Bulgarian School will not be returning as they do not have enough attendees. Spiritual stations have been successful.

**Passing of the Batons:** The outgoing Committee members officially handed over their batons to incoming council 2018 members:

## **Outgoing Council Members**

Jon Evans, President  
Betty Dove, Mission Focus  
David Vroom, Lay Ministry  
Kathy Burns, Finance Team Leader  
Christy Hall, Spiritual Life

## **Incoming Council Members**

Earl Kemper, President  
Angela Martin, Vice President/Mission Focus  
David Vroom, Lay Leadership  
Brach Waldo, Finance Team Leader  
Lisa Richardson, Spiritual Life

## **Hosanna's Neighborhood Community**

The incoming President, Earl Kemper, reported the following:

Call committee did a profiling of Hosanna's immediate and greater neighborhood. The overall observation is that Hosanna's neighborhood is in transition to a mixed ethnic population of Blacks, Latinos, Asians, and Whites.

The school district around Hosanna are Spring ISD and Klein ISD. Majority of the students are Blacks (40%) and Hispanics (40%). It was established that younger folks are not attracted to our church and we are not attracting people in the neighborhood. Earl requested that the council members get in groups and discuss and propose suggestions.

### **Community Ministry Suggestions:**

- 1) Review our choice of music /songs.
- 2) Distribute Hosanna literature to NAM so recipients of NAM's assistance aware of Hosanna and its services.
- 3) Raise our visibility and recognition.
- 4) Place Hosanna stickers on donated product to NAM.
- 5) Suggest NAM hold one of their activity e.g. immunization at our location, use our location as satellite or secondary location. Bernie to check with NAM.
- 6) Give ESL or citizenship training classes at our location
- 7) Focus on our members and their needs
- 8) Do a focus group to see the needs of the community
- 9) Refresh greeter training
- 10) Sign in book for visitors
- 11) Focus on kids needs
- 12) Advertise a movie night for kids

Community Service - Pastor Chatman informed the council that Spring ISD reached out to him to see how the church and Spring ISD can cooperate to help the students. The Pastor and the school district are discussing a possible summer program that Hosanna would host and manage and for which the school district would promote the program to students. Currently, the proposed concept would involve daily sessions, Monday through Friday, for eight weeks. Hosanna can define the curriculum including teaching about our beliefs. At this point, the Spring ISD officials are supportive of the concept.

Because Hosanna seeks to provide ministry to its neighbors and because Spring ISD initiated the contacts, the Pastor believes God's hand is in this. Pastor has seen similar

programs work elsewhere and wants support from Council to develop a more detailed program in collaboration with Spring ISD. Details would involve curriculum, funding, and leadership.

Hosanna does not have to do it alone and they can reach out to University of Houston, Spring ISD, Rice University, Synod and Lutherhill offices for help to use their resources to make this program work. Pastor requested the help of teachers at Hosanna to develop the curriculum and he will work on getting the funding and additional manpower to carry this mission through. He asked the council for their support during the process of creating a detailed plan.

The council gave their full support to further pursue Pastor Chatman's proposal and suggested that he engage several leaders to help him flesh out the proposal. Nancy Agafitei, Allison Brown and Kathy Burns will work together with Pastor on a summer program.

The retreat was adjourned at 3pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sheela Beteet