

STRONGHOLD CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER COMMITTEE

Presbytery Report: September 13, 2016

Committee Membership:

2016: Rev. Jeri Baker, Ted Finefield, & John Gerlach; 2017: Rev. Jim Friedmeyer, Rev. Judith Hardie, & Julie Leber; 2018: Betsy Johnson, Rev. Kathie Luke & Terry Mohaupt.

I. Assist staff in policy development & implementation and budget development & review:

- a. The bookkeeper/treasurer has been invited to return to meeting with the committee as it moves towards running more like a board.
- b. Having our new Executive Director, Danny, and Office Administrator/Reservations Assistant, Cassandra, on board and involved in day to day operations is greatly improving resource management, customer service, and effectively shoring up our books.

II. Provide leadership in fundraising and fund development.

- a. We are nearing the end of our funds development contract agreement with John Mecklenberg . We are pleased to have begun some new relationships and to have connected/reconnected with so many out in the presbytery and wider community. We look for Danny Pierce to continue to develop such funds and relationships into the future.
- b. Chris Busker's work both in building relationships, marketing our purpose and getting people to visit on site, has seen some results. The 5K Run to the Castle grew by over 150% this year, and together with the castle tours offered, resulted in over \$2500 of new income and 400 people visiting Stronghold that one Saturday morning. As a direct result of constant contact marketing and direct relationship building, we acquired one small work truck for \$500 and are looking forward to the donation of a nice used snow-plow/work truck.

III. Be in partnership with staff in strategic planning and to act as a think tank with staff for the betterment of Stronghold ministry.

- a. Richard Simpson is working with planning teams on both Women's and Men's retreats this year, and there is some exploration into possible youth retreats as well. Olde English Faire already has more vendors and entertainers than ever before; we still need volunteers!
- b. Ryan Anderson is working on our two annual confirmation retreats, as well as preparing to attend a Christian camp counselor job fair for internationals (in London through a perk in our Camp America membership) for summer camp 2017.
- c. The staff is continuing to reach out to local school districts in building effective and growing outdoor educational and environmental classrooms, working currently with two area districts and at least one homeschooling network.
- d. We are excited to note that as of this presbytery meeting, we not only repaid all 2016 payroll loans, but also continue to have enough cash on-hand to continue to meet current payroll.

IV. 501(c)3/LLC Task Force Report

The Trustees and Stronghold Committee met together to hear the first report. We now have an Employee Identification Number (for tax purposes) and an approved statement of purpose for the Articles of Incorporation. An estimate for necessary legal counsel is being sought. Our next meeting will be on 9/28 to continue work on Articles of Incorporation, a transition plan and budget in order to live completely within the 2017 budget (without payroll loans).

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Judith March Hardie
Pastor, Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle
Moderator, Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center Committee