

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE OF THE EASTERN ASSOCIATION 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Committee Members: Bill Seymour, chair (St. John UCC, St Charles); Richard Pohrer, vice chair (Good Shepherd UCC, St. Charles); Devin Jones, secretary (St. John UCC, Cappeltn); LaVerne Fink (St. John UCC, St. Clair), Doug Kaufman (Friedens UCC, St. Charles), Paul Koch (St. Peter's UCC, Washington), Polly McWilliams (Emmanuel UCC, Weldon Spring), Judy Praeger (Femme Osage UCC, Augusta).

Current Workings-

*We gathered many "welcome to our church" brochures from several of the Eastern Association Churches. These brochures served as a way to evaluate what is working with evangelism in many of the Association churches.

* We provided a display of these brochures at the Spring Meeting of the Association in April, 2009. In addition, Bill Seymour and Richard Pohrer put together the hand-out "First Impressions". This piece is a blend of evangelism materials we have reviewed and the brochures from local churches. This piece will be available at the Fall Meeting of the Association in September, 2009.

* We are looking into reactivating a dormant Eastern Association fund known as "Field of Harvest". Richard Pohrer is following up on the availability of this fund. It was set up some years ago with the stipulation to be used by the Eastern Association in "some useful way for evangelism efforts". Our hope is that some of this fund may be used by the Evangelism Committee for our long term "website" project.

* Website Project -

As indicated above, if we can realize funding, our long term goal is to set up a website for every church in the Eastern Association. We are currently putting together a list of all the churches that do have websites. Over-all many do. However there are many that do not and the Evangelism Committee believes a website is a very effective tool to have for those looking for a church to attend (in a general way) and for those moving into a community and looking for a near-by United Church of Christ.

Our goal is to provide a simple website for those churches that do not have one. It would be a listing of the church's name, location, address and phone, and times of worship and Sunday School. Our hope is that these churches would add to this primary website as they see it working and being used.

Future Goals -

We are continuing our work in finding out directions for Youth Evangelism. (What draws youth into the life of a church? What encourages a youth to invite another youth to come to church?) Part of this is through survey results conducted at some of the Missouri Mid- South Conference Youth events.

Another goal is to visit some of the churches in the Eastern Association and talk about Evangelism in those churches. We are seeking a list of what works in some of our churches.

Report prepared by Devin Jones,
Evangelism Committee secretary