

Pastor's Report

June 20, 2019

As we enter the summer I need to make the Session aware of a number of issues currently requiring our attention and discussion prior to the beginning of school in late August/early September.

- 1. Joshua & Stella Roh (Shin)** – The *Roh* family joined our church on March 24, 2019. The family has been in the United States legally for over 10 years with *Joshua's* legal status that of a F-1 Visa holder (full-time student). During their residency, *Shin* was born in Philadelphia and is considered a legal American citizen. At the present time, the family is beginning the process of application for a Green Card and permanent residency status. In order to remain legal during the application process, *Joshua* has recently enrolled in a full-time Doctor of Ministry program in Atlanta GA. I have contacted the Office of Western North Carolina Presbytery in Morganton and have secured the name of a law firm the Presbytery recommends as reputable and reasonable. I am becoming the lead consultant for the *Roh* family as they begin this process and I anticipate they will need some financial assistance and guidance. To this end, I would like the Session to approve the appointment of a 5-member Task Force connected with the Missions Committee to oversee our role in facilitating this process and to avoid my becoming overwhelmed by the important issues that have already arisen (money) and will inevitably emerge. It appears it will take a period of 1-2 years. I have already approached *Margaret Wilkins* and *Dave Barnhardt* to serve on such a Task Force, and I welcome the Session's suggestion of 3 additional members.
- 2. Early @ 8:30 Outdoors Worship** – This service has become increasingly successful with over 125 people attending last Sunday. I think it is important for all officers (elders and deacons) to make an effort to attend this service at least once a month and for committees that assist in weekly and monthly duties (for Sunday mornings year round for 10:30 Worship) to assume similar responsibility for the same duties for the 8:30 service – set-up, refreshments, ushering, sound, etc. The Worship Committee is not able to provide such comprehensive leadership and oversight alone.
- 3. Family Night Supper on Wednesdays during the School Year** – One of the greatest challenges before our church at the present time is fellowship and assimilation of new members who do not necessarily have the same habits or friendship groups as those of us who have been connected to the church for many years. Given the growing priority of Wednesday night programs and activities, a weekly common meal is a primary means for assimilation and the development of lasting relationships between new and long-time members. Such integration requires, however, an improvement in our meal without the expectation of volunteers to cook and clean-up. We need a Chef! I would like the Session to approve pursuit of a Cook/Chef able to attract our long-time members to the weekly Family Night Supper meal who currently are uninterested because of the current menu or because they fear they will become overwhelmed should they agree to assist in weekly or monthly meal preparation.
- 4. Sound System Operation** – For a variety of reasons, our Sound System Operators are down to two individuals (*Joe Hall*, *Mark Hamrick*) and both are exhausted and in need of a break. We are facing increased challenges in providing oversight during Worship, Funerals, Weddings, Concerts, etc. It appears we need to employ a *Sound System Operator* to train and oversee the operation of our (1) Sound System and (2) the use of multiple Audio-Visual resources throughout the church facility.
- 5. Vacation Bible School** – This year's Vacation Bible School is likely the most successful on record not necessarily because of attendance, but because of the number of volunteers and the wide range in age of those volunteers. Many of our retired-members have volunteered and found the experience both rewarding and encouraging. Such involvement and participation is what we are after in all our various program and outreach ministries. Well done!