

Heritage Focus Point Report

December 2019

The Leadership Team began work on the Heritage Focus Point in early October 2019, after several training sessions. The team quickly decided on the following activities to celebrate the Melrose history and heritage:

- Food Truck Friday
- Table card survey instrument
- Video interviews of four long-term church members
- A memory wall

FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY-The church contracted with a food truck vendor to serve the congregation dinner in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 8. The Leadership Team provided a \$5.00 cost offset per order to encourage participation. Orders were taken in advance to help the vendor prepare and to expedite service time. The event was well-publicized. The Team developed a brief seven-question survey card which was placed at each chair. A member of the Team presided and encouraged tables to proceed to the truck by tables and to place Post-It notes on the timeline. Attendance was substantial and enthusiastic. A video slide show of photos was shown during the event.

TABLE CARD SURVEY-Five-by-eight index cards were provided to all participants. Approximately 150 were completed. Additional cards were available or those who could not attend the event. The Team asked the following questions:

- What is your favorite hymn?
- What ministries of our church would you like to keep? What ministries would you drop?
- Have you experienced Christ's love from other members of our church?
- What new activities would you like to see at Melrose that you would attend?
- How would you describe Melrose to an acquaintance, a stranger, or a visitor?
- What is your greatest hope for Melrose?
- Is there anything that you would like for the Leadership Team to know?

Members of the Team collated and typed the results for review by full Team. The team broke into two groups and was assigned the task of discerning Core Values based on the results of the Congregation's responses.

The two groups compared responses and confirmed a set of Core Values.

Our **Core Values** are:

- To provide Bible-based educational and worship opportunities and social activities for all ages.
- To be a caring and loving support to members during times of difficulty, loss, and hardship.
- To show the love of Christ through our commitment to missions and outreach in our local community and beyond.
- To be a welcoming grace-filled body that is Christ-centered and grounded in prayer.

The list of Core Values along with a summary of the survey results were printed and distributed to the congregation. The responses to the question, “Is there anything that you would like for the Leadership Team to know?” were set aside for Team review and not published, though made available in the church office. The list and summary are attached to this report.

VIDEO INTERVIEWS-Two individuals and two couples were recruited to share their experiences at Melrose over the years. Participants included Louise Via, David and Pat Dillon, Susan Matney, and Ralph and June Nolley. Videos were recorded, edited, and shown during four successive Sunday morning worship services.

In addition, the Team located a collection of older CDs which were combined into a photo montage and shown during the Food Truck event and later at a Wednesday evening prayer service.

MEMORY WALL-During the Food truck event, Post-it notes were placed at each table for members to record major life events and stick them to large wall exhibit areas divided by decade. The visual impression was distinctive and clustered over the last twenty years—times of growth and prosperity.

The Leadership Team deeply appreciates the enthusiasm and support of the congregation during this critical opening focus point in the Intentional Interim Process.