

## **“WEATHER AMNESTY”**

### **TWO SPECIAL CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS**

#### **OCTOBER 27, 2011**

The meeting was spent discussing the proposed use of our community room for winter amnesty for the homeless. Pastor Mary explained winter amnesty, working with our cluster churches, and the need for overnight shelter. Sue Wright explained what our cluster churches are willing to do.

Clay UMC has committed to \$10,000.00 for the program. There is approximately \$20,000.00 still needed. Two staff persons will be hired as well as two volunteers will be warranted each night. Majestic Security has agreed to check in each night. The hours for the program would be 8:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. Coffee will be served. The program would run from Dec. 1, 2011 until March 1, 2012 (depending on the weather). Vineyard Church will provide mats for sleeping.

Much discussion and questions and answers followed. It was decided to invite someone from Hope Ministries to come on Tuesday, Nov., 1, to speak more about the winter amnesty at Hope Ministries and to answer questions. A vote will be taken at the second meeting as to whether or not we will participate in this program.

## **November 1, 2011**

Pastor Mary explained winter amnesty, the location we have to offer, the support from our cluster churches, staffing, volunteers, and stressed the need for 100% financial support for the program from outside sources, since we are unable to commit to any financial support from our church.

Our guest speaker, Lani Vivitro, from the Center for the Homeless spoke to us regarding their winter amnesty program, rules, staffing, volunteers, etc. She answered questions from those present. She stated there were about 115 homeless people in need of sleeping space, and about 65 beds are available currently; there is a shortage of about 55 beds.

Much discussion followed. We spoke of finances needed for the program and of the current commitment. Insurance was discussed. Any concerns were addressed.

After discussing the issue for some time a written ballot was taken for whether we wanted to proceed with the winter amnesty program at our church's community room. The vote was as follows: 18 council members voted yes and 1 voted no. The program will be for men only.

Larry Thompson, our Lay Leader, stated this was "positive for all of us".

A steering committee made up of at least two members from our council along with representatives from our cluster churches will establish stipulations, rules and regulations, financing, etc.