



# WESTROCK COUNCIL

## Newsletter

December 2015

### WRESTLING DOWN THE BUDGET

Creating and following the budget is one of the most important responsibilities of the council. Over the last several months the council has spent many, many hours discussing the challenges with our budget. Once again this was the largest issue during our recent council meeting. The reality is our expenses have increased and our income has not followed. But during our meeting we finally approved a budget, so that is great. We have set up regular periods of review to make sure we are sticking to our budget. In order to create a responsible budget we had to cut many expenses, some of which were not pleasant to do. Knowing that True Mother has also been cutting expenses we were reminded that this is what good stewards do.



But we also are determined to create new ways to bring in more funds. We have a lot of new energy and new ideas for growth and development, largely because of our new pastor, Rev. Kone. But also it is clear with the increasing input from more young adults combined with the experience of some our older members, our community has rich potential. Already, Genie Kagawa initiated a **Development Committee** for developing means of bringing in new funds. Rev. Kone will be overseeing this committee. We encourage the community to support this important new group and get involved.

But we already have had some good success with creative fundraising at WestRock. Last year, the Dance Group had a social dance that was not only highly enjoyable and great for making new friends but it raised \$3,000 for the youth ministry. Rev. Compton also had good success with a raffle last year. So everyone, entrepreneurs all, let us hear your ideas for raising some funds and fun in our community!

### COMMUNITY CHECK-IN SURVEY

The council is initiating a new "WestRock Check-In Survey". The purpose of this survey is to help our pastor team, paid staff, and volunteer leaders understand what is going well, what needs to be improved, and get a sense of the overall well-being of our community. This will help us identify areas of strength to continue investing into, as well as points of improvement that we may not otherwise have been aware of.

The Check-In Survey will be launched and sent out this month. This first survey is being done this month to get things started. But after this year, since the Council has 4 new members each July, we will schedule this survey annually each June. Then the new Council can begin their year with the survey results in hand. We will then be able to compare how we're doing to previous years, and provide a summary to the community.

The survey has 2 main Sections: Overall Community and Sunday Service. The survey is anonymous. Honest feedback, both constructive and positive, is the best way for us to address challenges and build on successes. So since you are asking, "How can I help WestRock grow?", please fill out the survey and give us your thoughts and ideas. We will grow with good old "give and take" in a new form!

**NEXT COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING** Our next Council business meeting is currently scheduled for **Sunday Dec. 13th**, from noon to 2:30pm, at the White House.

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR VISITORS:** *Visitors are very welcome - but please be aware that our agenda is usually very full. Visitors should contact the council (any council member) at least one week before the meeting to suggest an issue to be discussed or to be given time to express an opinion.*



Kester Wilkening  
WestRock  
Council  
Chairperson



Lynn Walsh  
Vice Chairperson  
& Small Groups  
Committee



Peter Reiner  
Vice Chairperson  
& Outreach  
Committee



Justin Okamoto  
Secretary  
& Outreach  
Committee



Jessica Sattinger  
Treasurer  
& Finance  
Committee



Steve Honey  
Councilor  
& Facilities  
Committee



Akiko Morris  
Councilor  
& Education  
Committee



Elisa Hack  
Councilor  
& Member Care  
Committee

**The WestRock Council  
welcomes your input!**  
*please email your comments,  
questions or suggestions to*  
[wrcouncil@googlegroups.com](mailto:wrcouncil@googlegroups.com)

## FIRST ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION AND OPEN HOUSE HELD ON NOV. 22ND

Many of you attended our 1st annual Volunteer Appreciation and Open House event on Nov. 22nd. This turned out to be a wonderful event, initiated by the council but supported by our WestRock Committees and several small groups. It was a chance to introduce your group or committee to our community, to network, and to recruit more volunteers.



Networking

more photos at  
[bit.ly/volunteer112215](http://bit.ly/volunteer112215)



Music team trying to "drum up" new recruits

The event was so successful we are planning on holding it annually from now on, always in November on the Sunday before Thanksgiving!

## SHINING LIGHT ON THE CAMP SUNRISE FINANCIAL SITUATION

Due to some unexpected loss of income caused by last minute cancellations from outside organizations, Camp Sunrise was unable to make their budget this year. Because of a previous agreement, WestRock had to pay a portion of that debt which was almost \$3,000. New Jersey also had to pay a portion. The camp staff, the WestRock Pastor and Council and the New Jersey Church community take this financial situation seriously. Camp Sunrise provides an invaluable venue for our youth to deepen their faith and friendships every summer. We don't want to be forced to shut it down. A meeting with representatives from the communities that benefit from the camp was held in Clifton, NJ on December 1. The purpose was to discuss and determine the means to assure Camp Sunrise can become self-sustainable and prevent relying on church community funds in the future

## THE WESTROCK GUIDEBOOK

Thanks to our council chairperson Kester Wilkening, the council has started creating the WestRock Guidebook, which is a compilation of important and basic information often needed for our events and general functioning. Composed of many documents, the Guidebook will provide a single resource that describes the specifics of how we operate; policies, procedures, etc. This source will clarify specific duties and responsibilities of our pastor, paid staff and council.

Last month the council made much effort producing accurate job descriptions for all paid staff. Also in the guidebook is basic information such as the size and number of tables available at the training center. This is an investment of time right now which, in the long run, will save time and help WestRock run more smoothly.

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**The WestRock Council welcomes your input!**  
*please email your comments, questions or suggestions to*  
[wrcouncil@googlegroups.com](mailto:wrcouncil@googlegroups.com)