

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2022 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present: **Olivia Knight** (Chair), **Ellen Flury**, **Lois Herr**, **Pastor Pam**, **Bill Siler**, **Gina Strouse**.
2. March minutes—We reviewed the minutes as accurate.
3. Ted & Co.—
 - a. This group offers a family program, “Holy Surprises,” incorporating comedy and faith.
 - b. The group had reached out to Pastor Pam now that COVID restrictions are not as problematic for performances to see if our church was interested.
 - c. **Olivia** will contact Ted for specifics as to cost and date/time.
 - d. We are hoping for Sunday, June 12th, with Saturday, June 11th, as a backup. Late afternoon or early evening.
 - e. We estimate the cost may be several thousand dollars.
 - f. Indoor Event—in the sanctuary
4. Lenten Discussion Forum—
 - a. Ellen shared that daily posts are too much for one person to take on, even with a once-a-week guest.
 - b. Perhaps in the future, we could consider online discussion posts by weekly themes, allowing them to grow as people feel led. Or, we could have several people posting on different days of the week.
 - c. The devotionals may lend themselves to more participation with verbal small groups, either in person or via Zoom. People may be intimidated by the writing element of the online discussion platform.
5. Movie Night—
 - a. We are planning for August 13th. We need to determine a time.
 - b. Due to summer sunset times and borough noise restrictions as of 9PM, we need to make this an indoor event.
 - c. We discussed supplying snacks and decided to hold off on that for this first venture. We may revisit the snack idea before the event.
 - d. **Bill** will check with the office for fellowship hall availability.
 - e. Based on previous discussions, we are considering presenting *The Princess Bride*. (There is one bad word. We are not sure what to do about that.)
 - f. **Bill** will apply for a yearly license from Church Video Licensing and find out additional information.
 - i. The yearly contract begins on the date of our contract and continues for one year, so we may want to wait until closer to August 13th to sign on.
 - ii. The first year fee is \$283.50 with subsequent years costing \$315.00.
 - iii. Is it okay for us to collect donations, since that is not charging a fee?

- iv. Is it okay for us to advertise to our church community ahead of time, since that is not advertising to the general public?

6. Faith Markers–

- a. Spring Faith Markers go to upcoming kindergartners, fifth graders, and HS seniors. (Third graders receive their Faith Markers in the fall.)
- b. **Gina** will request the kindergarten, grade 5, and HS seniors lists from the church office. The lists will go to Pastor Pam and Olivia.
- c. **Pastor Pam** will make sure that the appropriate gifts are ordered–books for K and 5; books and blankets for HS seniors.
- d. **Olivia** will inscribe the books.
- e. After the gifts are ready, the Nurture Commission will decide who among us is delivering the books to which children on the K and 5 lists. Nurture members will deliver the books and take photos to be compiled into a slideshow to be presented during a worship service.
- f. Faith Markers for the HS seniors will be presented during the church service which honors them in person near graduation time. Pastor Jason may be able to present them.

7. Small Groups–

- a. Olivia has created a Google Survey to advertise and determine/create interest.
 - i. **Olivia** will contact Crystal about sending out the survey soon, including the online congregation as much as is possible.
 - ii. When **Olivia** sends out the survey, she will include wording that encourages a 2-week deadline for responses.
- b. Lois mentioned the need for a counselor to be a part of the Me Too group that she has volunteered to facilitate. **Pastor Pam** may know someone and will follow through with Lois about that.
- c. We are aware that there are several small groups that are continuing to meet from the pre-COVID small group formation initiative. We are sensitive to their group cohesiveness, and we anticipate that these already-established groups will not be affected by the addition of new small groups.

8. New Ideas to Consider for Creating Connections–

- a. Gina mentioned how the Joys & Concerns used to be shared in person in church. That sharing brought us closer together as a church family. The loss of this sharing results in a disconnect and less empathy. How can the Nurture Commission talk about concerns to foster church community support?
- b. Gina brought forth another challenge for us. How can we make ONE community of our online and in-person congregations? If the church had email addresses for the online attenders, then they could be included when all-church emails go out and for additional outreach purposes. Could there be an announcement from the pulpit asking online attenders to email in? Perhaps a slide before worship could

ask online congregants to email in, much as in-person visitors are asked to complete a card to drop in the collection plate.

9. Next meeting: The next Nurture Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Flury