

**Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**May 17, 2023 @7PM via Zoom**

1. Present– **Lois Herr** (Co-Chair), **Gina Strouse** (Co-Chair), **Ellen Flury**, **Allison Mattern**
2. Meeting Minutes–We reviewed the April minutes as accurate.
3. Embrace event for supporting transgender youth on May 1st was a positive experience and well-attended from the community, albeit an already-supportive crowd.
  - a. Six people who attend EtownCoB's TransParent Support group attended.
  - b. School support for trans students seems to be administrator-dependent.
  - c. Misinformation about transgender status continues to be promoted via various media.
  - d. To show your own support for the transgender community, the panel suggested you put your personal pronouns (such as she/her) in your communications signature lines so that it is not only the transgender people who are doing that.
4. TransParent Support Group–
  - a. **Ellen** shared that it is remaining an in-person meeting, but we are adding in the Zoom hybrid option for people who have attended in person already.
  - b. Participation continues to be around 9 people.
5. Faith Markers–
  - a. **Pastor Pam** noted to **Gina** that the Faith Marker presentations went well, and she is looking forward to doing the next batch next Sunday for grades 5-6.
  - b. Thank you, **Ally**, for getting those all ready!
  - c. **Ally** will send the list of Faith Marker recipients to the office.
6. John Pavlovitz Weekend Event, October 20-22, 2023–
  - a. Amy Karr presented to the board, hoping to elicit assistance (parking, etc.) from all of the commissions.
  - b. Nurture would like to sponsor a Pavlovitz book discussion to begin near the start of the school year.
    - i. Title? We like *Stuff That Needs to Be Said: Essential Words on Life, Death, Faith, Politics, Love, and Giving a Damn.*

- ii. Whom to ask to lead it? (Linda Hope is unavailable.) Sandy Garman? Chris Bucher? Rose Baer? Don Kraybill? Bill Puffenberger? Email any other names to suggest to **Gina**.
- c. Budget–
  - i. Current status of Nurture Budget:
    1. There might be some funds left over from Camp Swatara by the fall.
    2. Lenten worship, we spent \$393, which leaves about **\$600**.
    3. Senior High, we spent \$738, but we should not touch the remainder.
    4. Faith Markers, we spent \$594 + \$51, so we are over budget on that.
    5. Congregational Spiritual Growth, we spent \$116, which leaves about **\$900**.
    6. Women's Retreat, we have **\$500** available.
    7. Church Gathering, we have **\$800** available.
  - ii. Cost for Pavlovitz is \$4000 plus expenses.
  - iii. Based on the figures above, Nurture can probably provide \$2,800. A free-will offering may be needed to collect supplemental funding. Witness Commission will also provide funds.
- 7. June 4 Council Meeting–
  - a. We are to report about at least one thing that our Commission is excited about at the June 4th Council Meeting.
  - b. Nurture has selected the TransParent group as our topic to present. **Ellen** will share thoughts on that with the Council.
- 8. Small Groups–
  - a. Young Adults–**Ally** says young adult women (ages 20s-40s) are forming a group. No one else Ally talked to from the young adults seems interested in a small group. We decided there is not a need there for us to fill.
  - b. Prime Time–**Gina** reported that a committee is working on plans for the 23-24 year. These plans include eateries, story-telling, history programs, and a book discussion, among others.
- 9. Focus on Online Attenders–
  - a. **Gina** asked Pastors Jason and Naomi if we could reach out to online attenders and is waiting to hear back. Previously, they had asked us to wait for their lead on this outreach.

- b. **Gina** is planning to try to view the Living Stream Church of the Brethren to find out what that is like.

10. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner–

- a. This keeps coming up as a suggestion. We need more manpower to get it going. Perhaps someone else outside of our Commission would be willing to organize it. Can we find a person or group to do this?
- b. Do we want this to be a one-time event or involve multiple dates, such as a fall, winter, and spring date? Should we try one date to start?
- c. Think of names of people who might be able to set this up and email the names to **Gina**. Roseann Wade? Marilyn Muston? Amy Carroll? Pat Leiter?

11. Nurture Members–

- a. **Gina** has talked with Candace Hoover, the new Chair of Gifts Discernment, and we are hopeful to see an additional member in the near future, but that might not happen. As it is, of the four current Nurture members, only Lois will be on the Nurture Commission, beginning in 2024. We suggested sending an email to the pastors and church board chair about that and including it in our summary minutes for the board.
- b. **Gina** researched several different churches and what their Nurture Commissions do.
  - i. Christian Ed is usually a committee under the umbrella of the Nurture Commission.
  - ii. She read about “Shepherding Groups.” A shepherd reports to the pastors about the needs of any of the 1 to 4 families in his/her flock. This was set up for people to feel more connected, to be welcomed at the entrance, for people to know that someone is thinking of them, looking out for them within the church family. We like this idea.
- c. When Pastor Pam retires, Pastor Jason will be our Pastoral representative on Nurture.
  - i. Jeff has asked Rhonda Myers to look over the Listening Sessions and work with a group to determine what the pastoral care needs are, especially long-term.
  - ii. As an immediate need, Jason will be taking on pastoral care and visitation along with some other pastors (retired) in our congregation.
  - iii. We might need to hire an interim pastor to address some of the needs.

12. The next Nurture Commission meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Flury