

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2022 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present: **Olivia Knight** (Chair), **Ellen Flury**, **Lois Herr**, **Pastor Pam**, **Gina Strouse**.
Not present, but noted in the minutes: **Crystal Crater** and **Bill Siler**
2. February minutes—We reviewed the minutes as accurate.
3. Nurture Appointments—Finalized for now.
 - a. Historical Committee—Jim Hoffer did some outreach. Thank you, Jim! Members added to the group are Jennifer Hummel and Pat Williams, who will be the Convener. **Ellen** will update the Googledoc of Nurture Appointments. **Crystal**, we're not sure if this information comes in time to make it into your listing, but we wanted to make you aware.
 - b. Post-High Group—**Olivia** will follow up with post-high leadership. She plans to contact Beth DeGoede.
 - c. 50+ and Prime Time—**Gina** hopes to have a conference call with Deb Zeigler and Sam Frankhouser from the Ephrata CoB about future options for these groups. (Sam wrote the Prime Time article that was in *The Messenger*.) Gina has reached out to Sam and is waiting to hear back. She is hoping to place that call soon after April 2nd, when Deb should be back from a Disaster Relief trip.
4. Virtual Game Nights—
 - a. Six people participated on February 18th; eight people participated on March 11th.
 - b. We determined that the groups had a good time.
 - c. We would like to offer this opportunity again, probably next winter in January and February.
5. Lenten Discussion Forum—
 - a. Dates are from Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, to Easter Sunday, April 17th
 - b. We discussed challenges in the current forum:
 - i. How can we get more people involved?
 1. Can we promote the forum with a link to it posted on social media? Perhaps a post with the link on our Facebook page and below the presentation screen on our YouTube worship channel. **Olivia** will look into those promotions.
 2. How to better connect with the online congregation? Perhaps the pastors could make a one-line statement in worship asking for emails from the online congregation who would like to be more interactive with others. **Pastor Pam** will look into including that invitation/announcement.

- ii. Daily posts with very little response/interaction are burdensome for only one person. In the future, perhaps two people could take the facilitating role every other day with a guest commenter on Saturdays.
- iii. Olivia's experience on discussion threads shows that short comments prompt more discussion. **Ellen** will post shorter responses (after tomorrow's, which is already prepared). Perhaps the longer ones are intimidating or say too much without leaving room for others' thoughts.
- iv. Tech issues are a roadblock for some who are interested in participating. They think it's a zoom session or don't know how to access the forum.. Is there a more streamlined process for signing into the forum? We want to stay with the Wix platform because that connects with the church website. **Olivia** will prepare a step-by-step tutorial for general use for accessing and using the forum. How can we best make that available?

6. Faith Markers—

- a. Pastor Pam sent us a document listing all the original Faith Markers. Thanks, Pastor Pam!
- b. One update has occurred to that list in recent years. We no longer present the Library Bags. Instead, the bags are prepared by a different commission and made available at the back of the church on Sunday mornings.
- c. **Pastor Pam** will get back to us with the dates for the spring once the pastors have determined them.

7. Movie Night—

- a. **Crystal**, we would like to reserve Saturday, August 13, 2022, for a Family Movie Night. Time and location at church TBD.
- b. Whether we show the movie inside or outside is rather COVID-dependent (and weather-dependent) at the time.
- c. The time for the showing would need to be after dark if we are projecting outside.
- d. Bill Siler has equipment to project movies, and that would save a lot of the cost that we had seen in last year's proposal with an outside company projecting.
- e. We would need a license to project. Licenses are available short-term or annual. For congregations of 200-499 people, the costs would be:
 - i. \$145 for a short-term license
 - ii. \$315 for an annual license
- f. Lois noted that the licenses apply to particular titles and usually include the films. We would like to know what movies are available with the annual and short-term licenses. It might be worth it for us to get the annual license if there are movies on the list that would apply to additional groups/topics; for example, a title like *Selma* may be appropriate for the racial justice group. How many movies are included in the annual license? **Bill**, could you check on the licensing details, as mentioned above, please?

8. Church Picnic–
 - a. Ellen reached out to Sandy Garman about her ideas on the picnic, as per our last Nurture meeting. Sandy thinks the picnic is a good idea for our congregation gathering together informally. She thinks that this event should NOT fall under the Hospitality Committee responsibilities.
 - b. Sandy had some powerful suggestions about keeping the Hospitality Committee as it is, focused on Sunday mornings, while adding a Kitchen Committee to handle food events. Ellen has notes to share from that conversation, but we determined she should share those at a later Nurture meeting with more time available for that topic. Ellen agrees to the need for the formation of a Kitchen Committee.
 - c. We discussed dates to consider when planning the picnic–
 - i. The day before school starts may be a bit hectic for families with students (or teachers).
 - ii. The first day of school for 2022 is slated for August 23rd.
 - iii. Etown Fair for this year is slated for August 22nd to 27th.
 - iv. We did not finalize a date for the picnic yet, but we did discuss possibly holding it later in the summer.

9. Small Groups–
 - a. We looked at the Nurture Commission description in our handbook to help us determine our goal in forming these small groups. Our goal is building relationships.
 - b. We discussed what the differences might be between activity-oriented groups, such as crafting, and spiritually-oriented groups, such as discussion support groups and informational/educational groups. Some topically-focused groups already exist, such as the Racial Justice Group.
 - c. We decided that we should leave the educational elements to Christian Ed to present in the Sunday morning curriculum they are restructuring. Ellen has shared the information about EBIC's Sunday morning small groups with Ann of Christian Ed., who reached out to Ellen based on Gina's suggestion. We will focus on the support elements outside of Sunday morning times.
 - d. We discussed the importance of setting up these small groups as informal groups to be about topics that the congregation is interested in.
 - e. The groups would serve short-term needs/purposes. After their original purpose has been fulfilled, it would be up to the group members to determine if they want to continue together as a group or if they want to move on to connect with different groups.
 - f. To determine the topics of interest for groups, we discussed sending out a GoogleForms survey. We will list several topics for groups and ask respondents to select the ones they would be interested in joining, ranking them by order of preference. We will include a choice of "Other," for people to write in their own topics to suggest. The survey should state that this is a preliminary step in determining interest with no times, dates, or meeting places yet determined.

Olivia will create the GoogleForms survey and will share it with the Nurture Commission for review so that it can be sent out in the near future. We felt it better to move ahead with the survey now to determine interest before we put effort into creating group structures.

- g. We discussed the following groups as options for the survey:
- i. Me, Too: Support Discussion (male/female appropriate relationships, gender harassment)--**Lois** offers to facilitate.
 - ii. Crafting: Activity--**Olivia** offers to facilitate.
 - iii. Pandemic: Support Discussion
 - iv. War & Peace Globally: Support Discussion
 - v. Aging: Support Discussion
 - vi. Spiritual Ideas Book Club: (Activity Discussion?) Suggested title is *If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk*, by John Pavlovitz
 - vii. Social Issues Book Club: (Activity Discussion?) Suggested title is *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*, by Jennifer Harvey. This is a guide for raising children to be anti-racist allies.--**Gina** offers to facilitate.
 - viii. Other suggestions (Please specify.):

10. Next meeting: The next Nurture Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Flury