

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2022 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present: **Olivia Knight** (Chair), **Ellen Flury**, **Lois Herr**, **Pastor Pam**, **Gina Strouse**.
2. April minutes—We reviewed the minutes as accurate.
3. Tent Rental—Pastor Pam shared that our church is still in the decision-making process for possibly renting a tent for 3 months, the summer months, for events during construction on our building. Possible uses are for funerals, VBS, ice cream social. Cost is ~\$4,000. Lois asked if the Susquehanna Room at the college would be available if the tent does not work out.
4. Ice Cream Social—Celebrating the ministry of Pastor Josh on Sunday, May 29th, following the worship service
 - a. Olivia contacted Trina for information on the previous ice cream social and has already ordered the ice cream.
 - b. Donna Hollinger will pick up the ice cream and transport it to the church freezer.
 - c. **Olivia** will spearhead filling the roles for our needs for this event, beginning by contacting Lisa Hitz. Our needs are as follows:
 - i. Someone to get disposable bowls and spoons, possibly from supply closet near kitchen.
 - ii. A few people to scoop/serve.
 - iii. People to supply scoops (maybe the scoopers do this?)
 - iv. Someone to take the ice cream out of the church freezer before church so that the ice cream may soften a bit.
 - v. A few people to set up 20 chairs in circles outside—or in the tent, if we have one.
 - vi. A few people to take down and return the 20 chairs to the church.
5. Kitchen Committee—
 - a. We see a need for this kind of committee, which could fall under the Nurture umbrella.
 - b. Do we want a more appealing name? The Martha Movers & Shakers? Feast & Festivities Fellowship?
 - c. We feel the Hospitality Committee should remain separate from the kitchen committee so that Hospitality may focus on greeting people and making them feel welcome.
 - d. We do not want the people on the kitchen committee to feel burdened by all the many events. Perhaps an ad hoc committee would serve best?
 - e. **Olivia** will contact the following people about their thoughts and interest in how to handle a kitchen committee AND to invite them to our July 20th meeting to discuss the possibilities:
 - i. Trina Hollinger

- ii. Sandy Brubaker
- iii. Lisa Hitz
- iv. Lucy Hernley

6. LGBTQ+ Support–June is PRIDE month.

- a. **Olivia** will ask Frank to add the Supportive Communities Network (SCN) subscription fee to our Nurture budget.
- b. Pastor Pam has some SCN books available.
- c. Perhaps we should have an SCN rep from our church to keep on top of SCN offerings and issues.
- d. **Ellen** will ask for tech help at home for navigating the SCN website for possible video clips to show during worship, especially during PRIDE month.
- e. **Ellen** will contact Kathy Nornhold to see if she would be willing to serve as the SCN rep.
- f. **Ellen** will contact PFLAG about possibly hosting a group meeting at our church facility as an ongoing support.

7. Family Movie Night–August 13th. Time TBD.

- a. Bill would like to do a run-through to make sure everything works as planned before the actual event. **Bill** will get back to Olivia about dates to do that.
- b. **Olivia** will check with Crystal for both the run-through and event dates in the fellowship hall, just to make sure construction is not an obstacle.
- c. If the fellowship hall is not available, **Olivia** will contact the college to see if they have a projection area to offer us. We also might be able to use the sanctuary as a back-up venue.
- d. **Bill** will get back to us about two questions for the movie company from last month:
 - i. Is it okay for us to collect donations, since that is not charging a fee?
 - ii. Is it okay for us to advertise to our church community ahead of time, since that is not advertising to the general public?

8. Ted. & Co.--Christian comedy duo to perform at Etown CoB. We're hoping for a date in the last half of September.

- a. **Olivia** will check with Crystal about the availability of September 17th or 18th for this event in the sanctuary.
- b. **Olivia** will check with Ted & Co. about their availability for 9/17 or 9/18, and for their actual fee.
- c. How to fund this program, which may be several thousand dollars? We discussed possibilities:
 - i. Pastor Pam considered a corporate sponsor.
 - ii. We will be sharing the cost of the event with the Witness Commission. **Olivia** will call Jim Hollinger from Witness to discuss funding with him.
 - iii. We can pass the offering plates for a donation.

- iv. We looked at items in our budget that are not currently being used with the idea that Nurture would have \$2,500 from those budgeted items to go toward the Ted & Co. program instead:
 1. \$400 Congregational Wellness
 2. \$600 Lenten programs
 3. \$1,000 Congregational Spiritual Growth
 4. \$500 Women's Retreat
9. Small Groups—Hoping to get 4 groups up and running by early summer.
 - a. The survey has gone out to the congregation, and Olivia showed us preliminary results. Book discussion and crafting had high interest. Young people tended more toward the social aspects of group interests.
 - b. **All Nurture Commission members** are tasked to also complete the survey.
 - c. **Olivia** will send Nurture Commission members the final results by June 8th, a week before our next meeting, which is June 15th.
 - d. Lois suggests that perhaps Nurture members should be the conveners of these groups even if someone else is leading. Different topics need different levels of leadership.
 - e. We need a professional to lead the Me Too group. **Pastor Pam** says she will check for someone in the Safe Communities group and let us know.
10. Prime Time—At our June 15th meeting, **Gina** and Deb Zeigler will be sharing what they have learned and envision for our church regarding this potential ministry for our older set.
11. Faith Markers—We are waiting for the lists from Crystal and Jason so that Pastor Pam can collect the books and materials for Olivia to inscribe.
12. Sharing Joys & Concerns in Worship—
 - a. In different groups within the church, several people have been mentioning how they miss the connection we feel as a church family when joys and concerns are shared during worship. It is a concern weighing on the hearts of several people.
 - b. How can we incorporate that personal sharing into the worship service while maintaining confidentiality with the online posting? We would like to discuss this at a time when **Pastor Pam** is at our meeting. (She had to scoot out this evening before this topic came up.) Is there a way to type in concerns without it showing up on the YouTube posting later on?
13. Online Congregation Inclusion—We want to do all we can to be inclusive to those attending online.
 - a. We need to make sure that in our efforts to nail down all the nitty-gritty details of our plans that we remember to keep in our minds the big picture of building relationships.

- b. We need to be purposeful about reaching out to the online congregation. There are really two groups of online congregants: those from a distance and those who are local but are choosing to attend online for a variety of reasons. We don't want to leave those people out, and we fear that some may be falling away because there is no outreach to them. How can we offer the online congregants the equivalent of an extended hand, a warm smile, and a welcoming greeting?
- c. **Pastor Pam**, we would like the pastors to mention aloud during worship the Google survey about small groups so that online congregants will know about it.
- d. **Pastor Pam**, we would also like the pastors to ask aloud during worship for online congregants who are visiting to please send in their email addresses so that we can include them in church emails, such as the Google survey, or even for sending them a "thank you for visiting" letter if they are new.

14. Next meeting: The next Nurture Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Flury