

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2023 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present– **Lois Herr** (Co-Chair), **Gina Strouse** (Co-Chair), **Ellen Flury**, **Allison Mattern**, **Pastor Pam**
2. Meeting Minutes–We reviewed the February minutes as accurate.
3. Board Information–
 - a. Gina shared that the congregation will receive a letter this week about pastoral staffing.
 - b. Staffing addition needs remain, but the letter will address a step in the right direction.
4. Faith Markers–
 - a. We reviewed procedures, which are in the Google folder, Faith Markers.
 - b. **Ally** is willing to take the leadership with Faith Markers for 2023. *Thank you, Ally!* She will be in contact with **Crystal** about starting the email process.
 - c. Gina has mentioned additional faith milestones in a person's life. Perhaps we want to add additional Faith Markers for adult milestones. We could pursue these ideas with a bit of research on possible markers, which can be books, notice of library books available, support groups, or other means of marking these milestones. **Gina** will begin researching and would appreciate input from others in our group. Possibilities are as follows:
 - i. New drivers
 - ii. New parents (a parenting book)
 - iii. Divorce (anointing)
 - iv. New grandparents (*The Mindful Grandparent* book)
 - v. Retirement (a book about purpose and worth in retirement)
 - vi. Becoming a caregiver for a loved one
 - vii. Moving to a new living situation, especially due to health issues
5. Small Groups–
 - a. In response to Listening Sessions, in which some people asked about small groups for particular age groups, Gina has collected lists of people from 55 to 70 and 30 to 54. How can we meet that need?

- b. Should we send out a survey to the particular age groups about what kinds of small groups those in the age groups 55-70 and 30 to 54 would be interested in?
 - c. **Gina** will contact Olivia and/or Crystal to ask about the questions that were in our previous small group survey.
 - d. Lois suggested that topic-centered small groups could be helpful. Perhaps a group for those who are new to the area or for those who are interested in retirement, etc. Then, people could self-select by topic.
 - e. Perhaps we could re-institute small group choices like Pastor Jason had set up pre-pandemic.
 - f. Possible small group to discuss how to intersect our faith with the politics of the 2024 presidential election. We suggest a qualified leader, such as Ken Kreider or a retired pastor.
 - g. Possible small group to discuss Christian Nationalism.
 - h. Possible small group for those in Caregiver roles.
 - i. Small groups seem to be our most successful venture in the recent building of relationships.
6. Lenten Devotional–
- a. We have it set up, and it is a deep devotional, appropriate for discussion.
 - b. **Ellen** will continue with the daily posts/questions.
 - c. The congregation is not seeming very interested in participating. We should re-evaluate after Easter to see if we want to continue the discussion forum again in Advent.
 - d. Perhaps it would be more inviting for people if we set up the discussion about a more controversial topic or book.
 - i. We need to be careful about what kinds of topics to be posted publicly online through our church.
 - ii. We also need qualified people to lead such discussions.
7. Prime Time Senior Ministry–
- a. **Gina** met with a small group of people who have developed a mission and goals for this group.
 - b. The group is meeting again in a few weeks to plan events for the late spring and summer.
8. Pavlovitz Event–**Gina, Lois**, Amy Karr, Pastor Pam, Jim Hollinger, and Karen Ungemach are meeting next week to review past planning and decide what should happen next.

9. Online Attenders Outreach–
 - a. The pastors are interested in reaching out to online attenders. When we are fully staffed with pastors, this need can better be addressed.
 - b. The pastors are open to input and suggestions from our commission, but the feeling at this time is that the effort will be better spearheaded by the pastoral staff.

10. Gina reviewed items from the Nurture handbook timeline.
 - a. Does the Pavlovitz event (retreat) take the place of the Women’s Retreat for this year?
 - b. POSSIBILITY–Should we be planning a church picnic for the fall?
 - c. Golden Age Dinner–That idea went by the wayside from feedback that said people were not enjoying it. The event can be a lot of work for the Nurture Commission.
 - d. POSSIBILITY–Is Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner an idea we want to revisit? Could technology help create the dinner groups and ease the planning for that?
 - e. Christmas Caroling?

11. We are still awaiting another Nurture Member to be added through the Discernment Committee.

12. The next Nurture Commission meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Flury