

**Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**July 7, 2021 @7PM via Zoom**

1. Present: Lisa Rosenberger (Chair), Beth DeGoede, Ellen Flury, Olivia Knight, Pastor Pam, and special guest Sandy Garman.
2. John Pavlovitz event. In support of the Witness Commission, Nurture is interested in helping to sponsor ECoB's hosting a John Pavlovitz event, possibly in the spring of 2022. We want to wait until then so as to not rush preparations and to be safe with COVID-19 developments.
3. Faith Markers. Gifts have been mostly delivered, and the slide show is in progress. Beth is ready to deliver the seniors' gifts, but they will not involve photos or videos, so there is no time pressure on that. Pastor Pam says this is a wonderful contact and the slideshows are well received.
4. Picnic for Lititz and Elizabethtown congregations--Sunday, September 19, 2021, at Lititz.
  - a. Sandy Garman shared plans with Nurture. A committee of people from both churches met in April. The Lititz member is Becky Beck. The ECoB committee members are Sandy Garman, Barbara Ellis, and Vida Snavely. The committee meets again July 23rd. Sandy will share progress with Nurture as plans develop.
  - b. The picnic is slated for Sunday, September 19, 2021. Meet for games and socialization at 3PM followed by a meal at 4:30PM at Lititz Church of the Brethren.
  - c. Proposed end time is 7 to 7:30PM.
  - d. In case of rain, the event will move inside. No rain date.
  - e. Current meal plans are for beef BBQ. ECoB Nurture will be supplying half the funds for the meal. Lititz will supply the other half. Food may be coming from Costco. More food details to come later.
  - f. The committee envisions games and playground time for the children. Families are encouraged to bring lawn games (corn hole, ladder golf, etc.). ECoB may be supplying some games and possibly bubbles.
  - g. The committee has ordered a tent, and it will be set up on Saturday night.
  - h. The planning committee will be organizing helper committees to set up and take down.
  - i. Lititz will provide name tags.
  - j. Attenders should bring their own lawn chairs.
  - k. No responses for attendance are needed. Lititz wants to invite anyone who may be visiting the playground at the time of the picnic.
5. Family movie night for August. This event is cancelled. It was planned as a possible way to gather while under COVID separation, which is no longer the case. Discussion about this included the need to re-evaluate the mission of the Nurture Commission.

6. Mission of Nurture Commission. We revisited our mission statement and brainstormed innovative ways in which we could better fulfill our mission, thinking that perhaps we need to be less event-oriented and more open to other avenues for nurturing.
- a. Mission Statement: *Nurture Commission has responsibility for the inner mission of the church. The commission shall be responsible for providing experiences that enable persons of all ages to develop faith and grow in Christlikeness as disciples. The Commission shall assume responsibility for opportunities that strengthen the body of Christ by building and nurturing friendships and relationships.*
- b. Our ideas are below:
- i. Support, nurture, and strength for younger parents
  - ii. A tea for the Golden-agers instead of a full (formal) meal
  - iii. Groups that meet with common interests, such as crafts
  - iv. Monthly drop-in opportunity for bring-your-own craft night
  - v. Small randomly-selected groups eating together, no program. Could be like Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, but just casual--not making it a "big thing"
  - vi. Small groups by stages of life for fellowship/prayer during Sunday School hour followed by elective classes by content for all adult ages
  - vii. Utilization of the Sunday School hour or after-worship hour for additional activity/group connection options
  - viii. Nurture events have already been covering the friendships and relationships "fun" part of our mission statement pretty well. We could do more with the "serious" part of strengthening personal relationships with Christ, such as the following:
    1. Prayer meetings/sessions
    2. Taize services
    3. Network of spiritual mentors
    4. Meditation sessions
    5. Yoga with meditation
    6. Recommendations/availability for personal and/or family devotional books or apps
- c. We discussed the *process* of re-envisioning the role of Nurture Commission. Here are our ideas about that:
- i. To determine the needs/interests of the congregation, we could send out a Google survey.
  - ii. To promote interest in a variety of groups and activities, we could hold a "fair" for people to visit different tables about the different opportunities, possibly after worship service.

- iii. We would like to seek clarification from **Pastor Pam** about her vision for the Nurture Commission. What direction would she like to see us taking?
- iv. We can look back at the early church. What did they do to nurture each other?
- v. And from a follow-up email thread . . . We are feeling a little confused as to what direction Nurture should be taking. What should Nurture be doing, hospitality be doing, and Christian ed be doing?

7. Our August meeting needs will be handled via email(s). Our next meeting is planned for Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Flury