

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2021 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present: Lisa Rosenberger (Chair), Beth DeGoede, Ellen Flury, Trina Hollinger, Olivia Knight, Pastor Pam
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 2022. We want to wait to be safe with COVID-19 developments.
3. Faith Markers.
 - a. Pastor Pam says this is a wonderful contact and the slideshows are well received.
 - b. **Lisa will finalize the Faith Markers video.**
 - c. **Lisa will SUBMIT the Faith Markers video to the church office for sharing during worship.**
4. Picnic for Lititz and Elizabethtown congregations--Sunday, September 19, 2021, at Lititz.
 - a. Sandy Garman and Barbara Ellis are involved with planning with Lititz.
 - b. Pastor Pam anticipates Sandy and Barbara having a promotional video to share during worship sometime soon.
 - c. **Ellen will call Sandy Garman to see what support she and Barbara Ellis need from Nurture for the picnic.**
 - d. **Olivia will send out an email to young families, notifying them of the upcoming picnic details.**
5. 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. Recently, a member of the Discernment Committee asked Olivia about our new vision for Nurture so that they know what kinds of people to consider recommending for Nurture. We decided that Olivia could refer the person to our mission statement, above, which has not changed. How we implement that mission statement is what we are looking to revise.

- c. We reviewed our ideas from the July 2021 meeting, and **Ellen will resend those minutes so that we all have the list handy for review after the meeting.** The list is also 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
- d. We brainstormed additional ideas for the vision of the Nurture Commission during this meeting:
- i. We can still do some events but not focus only on those. We can allow other commissions to handle some events which we can support.
 - ii. Pastor Pam mentioned that Faith Markers are a wonderful way to implement nurturing in the congregation, so we will want to continue with those.
 - iii. Consider a "seniors" ministry, as Gina Strouse recently mentioned to us, inspired by an article about a "Prime Time" group in a recent issue of *Messenger* magazine.
 1. Perhaps we could ask Gina to be on a planning committee for such a group.
 2. Perhaps invite seniors to some of the young families events that are ongoing (but are not currently happening due to COVID concerns).
 3. Perhaps place a notice in the newsletter about a senior group being started.

4. Perhaps a senior group could be an appointment under Nurture, such as the 50+ group has been.
 - iv. Pastor Pam shared about a Brethren Press Advent-through-Epiphany devotional, *Do Not Be Afraid*.
 1. Could we have an online discussion board on which people could discuss the devotional readings?
 2. **Lisa will contact the college about what discussion platform(s) they have available that we might use for online discussions of devotionals.**
 3. **Olivia will ask Jerry about possible available discussion platform(s) that we might use for online discussions of devotionals.**
 - v. We revisited a previous idea about outside visiting and ice cream. Great idea, Trina!
 1. Perhaps we could host an evening for people to come to the parking lot, pick up a pre-packaged ice cream sandwich for a snack, and visit with each other outside.
 2. Maybe we want to do this after church while more people are already here.
 3. Even better if Rachel Hollinger, local Dairy Princess, could be here for the ice cream feature!
 - vi. We want to keep the drive-in movie idea on the back burner for possible future implementation.
6. We planned several tasks to which to attend at our next meeting:
- a. We can review our handbook calendar of what to attend to and give activities the green, yellow, or red light for implementation.
 - b. We need to decide who is going to call whom to verify the Nurture appointments for the following year. **Lisa will prepare a list of Nurture appointments in a spreadsheet or chart (Current/old ones should be in our Nurture folder). Send it to us for us to use for deciding who is going to contact whom at our October meeting. Beth is the person to ask if you need help accessing this.**
 - c. Pastor Pam has asked us **ALL** to look over our lists of ideas for our new vision of Nurture (see above). We should each choose a favorite idea to bring to the October meeting to put into the planning stage.
7. Our next meeting is planned for Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Flury