

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2021 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present: Lisa Rosenberger (Chair), Beth DeGoede, Ellen Flury, Trina Hollinger, Pastor Pam.
2. Supportive Communities Network (SCN) This group works in the Brethren Mennonite Council to promote a welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ individuals in churches.
 - a. Guests joining our Zoom were Carol Wise and Brian Flory, contacts from SCN. They explained the history and nature of their organization.
 - i. SCN is empowering for congregations.
 - ii. They offer education and discernment about LGBTQ+ individuals.
 - iii. They try to compensate for the church's rejection of LGBTQ+ individuals.
 - iv. SCN ideas can impact views on all marginalized groups.
 - v. Membership in SCN seems a logical connection for our congregation as a next step after our statement on anti-racism.
 - vi. Several churches in our district are already members of SCN.
 - vii. There is no precedent for sanction in response to joining SCN.
 - viii. SCN offers support if we feel we are "on the hot seat" for supporting LGBTQ+ individuals.
 - ix. They offer education about trans people and recommend Trans 101 as something to view.
 - x. If we do join SCN, they would like to have a liaison from our congregation to their organization.
 - b. We agreed that the Nurture Commission recommends ECoB joining SCN for support and resources that align with our "openness to all" tagline.
 - c. We would like to get information about SCN to the board before the May 10, 2021, meeting.
 - i. Pastor Pam and Lisa will work together to get something to the board this weekend.
 - ii. Pastor Pam will prepare a statement.
 - iii. Lisa will work on PowerPoint slides for a brief presentation that may also include information, possibly a video, from the SCN website.
 - d. If the board is comfortable with the time frame, we would like to have information presented to the congregation for a vote at the spring council meeting on May 23, 2021.

3. Faith Markers

- a. Nurture members will visit 4-year-olds and 5th graders to present their books and take photos for a slide show in church as we did last year. We are aiming for a TBD June date.
 - i. **Pastor Pam** will check with the pastors about a date for this and should be able to let us know by next week.
 - ii. **Olivia** will complete the inscribing of the books and take them to the church.
 - iii. **Trina**, **Ellen**, and **Beth** will do the following:
 1. Pick up the books for delivering.
 - a. **Trina**--the first four 4-year-olds (Check for names in books.)
 - b. **Ellen**--the final four 4-year-olds (Check for names in books.)
 - c. **Beth**--the 5th graders
 2. Contact the parents of the children to set up a delivery time. Ask parents for permission to have the children's photos displayed in a slide show that will be shared on the live streaming service online (possibly in addition to an in-person service).
 3. Deliver books and photograph the children with their books.
 4. Label the photos with the children's names and what age group they are in.
 5. Send photos of the children to Lisa.
 - iv. **Lisa** will prepare the slide show(s) for presentation during a church service.
- b. Gifts for the graduating high school seniors will be coordinated to coincide with the church service Pastor Jason is planning to have them participate in.
 - i. These faith marker gifts will most likely be presented in person in church during that service.
 - ii. **Pastor Pam** will let us know the date and what plans Jason has that may involve the seniors and Nurture, such as videos or slides like last year's.

4. Social Time/Movie Night

- a. This event is scheduled for Friday, August 20 (with rain date on Saturday, August 21), 2021. Lisa will contact the movie company to confirm.
- b. We discussed inviting Lititz CoB to join us.
- c. We discussed options for social time, such as renting a soft ice cream machine and/or supplying popcorn for the movie.
- d. We discussed different funding opportunities:
 - i. Re-allocating our Nurture funds from several categories of events that have not been taking place during the pandemic, such as the Golden Age Dinner and the Women's Retreat, among others.
 - ii. Placing donation buckets at the event.
 - iii. Asking for sponsors, whose ads could be projected onto the screen at no extra cost to us.
 1. We felt most comfortable keeping this within our church community rather than advertising for the whole town (although we would not want to turn anyone away).
 2. We discussed asking those who have sponsored the Run for Peace in the past if they would want to sponsor the movie night.
 - a. Beth will send a list of the Run for Peace sponsors to Lisa.
 - b. Lisa will follow up by contacting those sponsors to see if they are interested in sponsoring movie night.

5. Picnic with Lititz CoB--(Etown CoB will not be hosting a picnic this year.)

- a. This event is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, September 19, 2021, at Lititz CoB.
- b. Lititz CoB plans to have a tent set up, and they also have the new playground available there. Lititz CoB is planning on including community outreach for this event.
- c. The event is being planned, including a menu, by Lititz CoB and the hospitality committee (Sandy Garman and Barbara Ellis) of Etown CoB.
- d. The event cost is being split between Lititz CoB and the Nurture Commission of Etown CoB. We do not yet know the cost.

6. Our next meeting is planned for June 2, 2021, at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Flury