

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2022 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present: **Gina Strouse** (Chair), **Ellen Flury**, **Lois Herr**, **Pastor Pam Reist**, **Bill Siler**.
2. September minutes–We reviewed the minutes as accurate.
3. The budget information for Nurture has been turned in to the board.
4. Nurture Commission Membership–
 - a. Gifts Discernment is looking for a replacement for Olivia’s slot on Nurture. It will be difficult to find someone who is willing to serve AND be the Chair.
 - b. Gifts Discernment says that once that slot is filled, Nurture will have a full membership.
 - c. **Lois** is willing to be the Vice-Chair but cannot attend board meetings because of schedule conflicts on Monday evenings.
 - d. **Gina**, who is currently serving as interim Chair, is a one-year appointed member of the Nurture Commission for 2022. She has not yet decided if she will continue to serve on Nurture in 2023. Others voiced appreciation for all Gina does and brings to the Commission with the hope that she will seriously consider continuing to serve on Nurture.
5. Small Groups–Are we meeting our goals for connections with small groups?
Yes! The groups are off to a great start!
 - a. Groups in Progress–
 - i. TransParent Support Group had its first meeting in October and will continue monthly, meeting in person at the church.
 - ii. The Crafting Group continues to meet under Becky Eisenbise’s coordination.
 - iii. The Book Group about *If God Is Love, Don’t Be a Jerk*, by John Pavlovitz, continues to meet under Linda Hope’s facilitation and should conclude in late November.
 - iv. The Peace/Gun Violence Group is about halfway through its book study of *God and Guns*, under the direction of Chris Bucher.
 - v. Prime Time, although not a typical small group, is up and running. Gina and Deb Ziegler will be meeting soon to discuss the next steps.

- vi. The Women's Together Circle continues to meet weekly for discussion. Although this group formed organically and not under Nurture's direction, it is a viable small group.
 - b. Groups to Be–
 - i. A new Inquirer's Class will begin soon.
 - ii. A new book group on *Blindspot*, which addresses biases, will begin soon under the direction of JulieAnn Keith.
 - c. Groups to Consider–We have had a request for a Grief Support Group. We do have connections to grief support through Pathways, sponsored by hospice, and through Samaritan Counseling Center. There is information about the grief support opportunities on the bulletin board. **Pastor Pam** will write an article for the newsletter with information about the options already available. If the need for a support group within our congregation becomes evident, we can contact Rhonda Myers for direction.
6. Faith Markers–These are officially “on hold” for this year.
- a. With construction hindering access to materials and a shortage of people available to carry this important project forward at this time, it is not a viable activity.
 - b. **Pastor Pam** will write up an announcement to go out in writing on Sundays to let people know we have not forgotten the Faith Markers. They are just on hold for now.
7. Holiday Nurture Events and Activities–
- a. What are the expectations of the church for Nurture for Christmas events?
 - i. The Pastors have no additional requests for us beyond what we determine.
 - ii. Reaching out to those who are shut in or may be in need of uplifting had previously been a goal of the Christmas Caroling event that has not happened since COVID. The Deacons do set up visitations throughout the year for those people in need of cheer, so that need is being addressed in some fashion.
 - b. Christmas Eve Service Cookie Sharing–Pastor Pam shared that Trina Hollinger will be managing the Christmas Cookie sharing and gathering after the Christmas Eve service this year. Nurture does not need to address anything concerning this event.

c. Online Discussion Platform–

- i. **Crystal** will set up the online forum for us. Thank you, Crystal!
- ii. This is an activity that allows for flexible scheduling for participants and readily includes both in-person and online attendees.
- iii. **Ellen** will post a daily discussion question on the online discussion platform to accompany the Advent through Epiphany Brethren Press 2022 devotional, *Simple Gifts*, by Kathy Guisewite.
- iv. **Ellen** already submitted a newsletter article to promote participation in the forum.
- v. **Ellen** will work on a promo video ahead of time to promote participation.
- vi. **Pastor Pam** will have the pastors give a plug about the question/answer discussion forum during worship before and during the Advent-to-Epiphany time frame to promote participation.

d. Family Holiday Movie Night–

- i. We want to offer a movie in the fellowship hall between Christmas and New Year.
- ii. We would like to show *Elf* on December 28, 2022, starting at 6:30.
- iii. **Bill** will make arrangements, including contacting the office.
- iv. We would like to provide popcorn as a snack.

e. Additional Holiday Ideas–

- i. Pastor Pam shared about a Blue Christmas Service, a contemplative time.
- ii. Possible meal gathering for adults who would otherwise be eating alone, such as widows/widowers. This could be a monthly ministry if the people with the specific talents were willing.
- iii. Last year, Nurture sent Christmas cards to those on a list from the Deacons. We think it was shut-ins and people over 80. Nurture also gifted poinsettias to the pastors and church staff. Lisa Rosenberger handled it all. **Gina** will reach out to the Deacons to see what the need is for possible greeting cards. **Gina** will reach out to Lisa for details if Gina feels we should follow through on this idea.
- iv. At our November meeting, we will discuss anything further that we can do and want to do for the congregation for the holidays. Perhaps we will have information from the Listening Sessions to consider by then.

8. Additional Ideas for Promoting Connections–

- a. Prompted from some emails following recent church discussions, we talked about a few potential ideas.
 - i. We are addressing the connection needs of senior adults through the Prime Time Ministry. How can we address the connection needs of younger adults and young families?
 - ii. Our Post High appointment is vacant and in need of leadership and activity. At one point in recent years, Avery Book was going to assist with such a group, but it did not get off the ground.
 - iii. We have many young families who are no longer attending in person on Sundays. Could we reach those families better electronically?
 - iv. Would a “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” event work in the current COVID climate?
 - v. Due to time constraints, we decided to revisit the above and additional ideas in a future meeting.

9. Nurture Appointments–

- a. We each volunteered to contact several appointments from the color-coded document Ellen sent to see if the individuals are willing to

continue to serve for 2023.

2023 Nurture Commission

Ellen Flury, Secretary (final of 3-year term) (2023)

Lois Herr (2nd of 3-year term) (2024)

Olivia Knight, Chair (position to be filled 3-year term) (2023)

Bill Siler (2nd of 3-year term) (2024)

Gina Strouse, Vice-Chair (1-year appointed member) (2022)

Pam Reist, Pastoral Rep.

Appointments of the Nurture Commission

ANE District Senior Adults Church Office

Camp Swatara Representative Annalie Heinz

Child Care Coordinator Kay Bell, Kristen Siler

Fifty Plus Group Deb Ziegler

Historical Committee Jim Hoffer, Bob Hollinger, Jennifer Hummel, Ken Kreider,

Suzanne Taylor, Pat Williams—Convener

Library Committee Judy Shank, Chair

Meals to Homes Committee Charlotte Brown, Marilyn Muston

Men's Breakfast—with Conversation Jim Hoffer, Ben Hoffman, George Snaveley

Merry Magdalenes (Red Hatters) Suzanne Taylor

National Youth Conference Planning Committee Jason Haldeman

Post High Group

Women's Bible Study Pat Leiter

Women's District Fellowship Representative Pat Leiter

Young Adults Pastoral Staff

Winter Walking Group Rose Baer

Youth Advisors

Sr High: Allison Mattern, Jacob Bradley, Sam Epps, Kelly Kleindienst,

Jr High: Bekah Miller, Ann Piñeda Ziegler

Youth Ministry Team

Allison Mattern, Jacob Bradley, Rich Nornhold, Sheila Rodriguez,

Deb Ziegler, Jason Haldeman, Pastoral Rep.

- b. For those who are not willing to continue in their appointed role, we need to seek a replacement and contact that new person (or discuss options at our next meeting).
- c. **Gina**, **Lois**, and **Bill**—If you will email Ellen with your responses to those contacts, **Ellen** will update the Nurture Appointments document for the office.

10. At our November meeting, we will determine if we will meet in December or not.

11. Next meeting: The next Nurture Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Flury