

Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes
August 17, 2022 @7PM via Zoom

1. Present: **Olivia Knight** (Chair), **Ellen Flury**, **Lois Herr**, **Pastor Pam Reist**, **Bill Siler**, **Gina Strouse**.
2. July minutes—We reviewed the minutes as accurate.
3. We looked at the big picture of our mission and our activities, asking what is working, what needs attention or could benefit from change, and what has potential.
4. **Activities that are working well**—Small group formation
 - a. The crafting group is in progress.
 - b. The book group has about a dozen people interested so far. Lois says 12-15 is a good number for a small group.
 - c. The gun violence concern group is beginning in Oct.
 - d. A few current small groups that began prior to COVID and continued through the pandemic are still in progress.
 - e. The TransParent support group planning is progressing, hoping to begin meeting in October.
5. **Activities that need attention or could benefit from change**—
 - a. Movie night—
 - i. Attendance was low (5 in addition to Bill and his family), but they had a good time. Maybe as a measure of success, we need to consider the *quality* of the experience in addition to the *quantity* of attenders.
 - ii. It was a gorgeous day to be outside. Maybe another date in November and/or January would bring more people.
 - iii. We showed a PG film, *The Princess Bride*. Perhaps a more child-oriented family film would reach more interest.
 - iv. More advertising could help—Maybe we could post fliers in the church and have a promotional skit during worship (either live or recorded).
 - b. Online discussion forum for Advent-to-Epiphany and Lent—
 - i. We know from the numbers that many people looked at the posts, but not many participated. Perhaps this is another activity for which *quality* of experience is as important as the *quantity* of participants?
 - ii. It is a bit much for one person to lead all the posts alone, especially without much written response. Perhaps we could have more people posting the lead on a rotation basis, such as once a week for the six weeks.

- iii. This is an activity that can reach both resident and online attenders. How can we encourage more participation? Maybe a skit (either live or recorded) during worship?
- iv. Maybe people are intimidated by writing. Perhaps we could offer a Zoom discussion weekly in response to the readings from that week in the devotional booklet.
- v. Maybe another seasonal topic would be of interest? Perhaps we could look at full stanzas of Christmas hymns/carols to discuss instead of or in addition to the advent devotional. Gina used to have a book about that, so we know one exists even if she doesn't have her book any more. (As Gina is in the midst of a downsizing move, she's not sure where the book is—boxed or donated. We hope all goes well with your move, Gina!)

6. Activity ideas that have potential—

- a. Offer an opportunity to upcoming and subsequent Inquirers classes to see if the class members want the option to continue meeting together as a small group.
- b. Organize a “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner” event. We wonder if there is a kit or instructions available somewhere for how to do that.
- c. Form a small group of support for those who are grieving. This may be able to come under the umbrella of the Prime Time Seniors Ministry.
- d. Compile a directory of small groups to be available so that people can see where they can “plug in.” Is there something already in progress that addresses this?
- e. Initiate ways to integrate the online and resident attenders as one congregation.
 - i. Build a sense of community by sharing joys and concerns during worship so that we feel connected but are sensitive to the privacy concerns that online posting brings. Perhaps the pastors could offer the option for people to email their joys and concerns by Saturday evening so that pastors can review them ahead of time. Maybe have a button for submitting joys and concerns on the website—with the options to select to have the issue be shared aloud during worship, placed in the email prayer chain, or mentioned as an unspoken prayer request. Perhaps the pastors could open time for joys and concerns live during the worship service with the mention that it will be posted online.
 - ii. Suggest ways to involve the online attenders in the service. Perhaps someone could be the scripture reader, possibly pre-recorded. Families could light the advent wreath in their homes and record it to be shared.
 - iii. Investigate additional avenues for connecting and integrating the online and resident attenders by reviewing the results of the online attenders survey. **Olivia** will contact Pastor Naomi about the survey results.

7. Upcoming plans—

- a. **Olivia** will follow up about Ted & Co. plans via email to the Nurture Commission.
- b. If we need updates on Faith Markers before our September meeting, **Olivia** will email us about that, also.

8. Next meeting: The next Nurture Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Flury