

**Nurture Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**June 15, 2022 @7PM via Zoom**

1. Present: **Olivia Knight** (Chair), **Ellen Flury**, **Lois Herr**, **Bill Siler**, **Gina Strouse**.
2. May minutes—We reviewed the minutes as accurate.
3. LGBTQ+ Support—Ellen is following up with people and should have an update for next month's meeting.
4. Senior Adult "Prime Time" Ministry Proposal—
  - a. Could Etown CoB have a focused ministry for senior adults?
  - b. Should this ministry be a subcommittee under the Nurture umbrella?
  - c. Gina Strouse and Deb Zeigler would like to meet with the pastors sometime this summer to discuss possibilities. It would be important to have the pastors on board. **Gina** and Deb will contact the pastors about that. They are wondering if Naomi would have insights into this ministry. Gina already sent the information we discussed to Pastors Jason, Naomi, and Pam.
  - d. Gina and Deb shared their findings and conclusions with the Commission after having met with contacts who participate in such a ministry at the Ephrata CoB:
    - i. Older adults need to feel a sense of purpose.
    - ii. Some older adults have concerns about isolation.
    - iii. Opportunities for services and lifelong learning are helpful:
      1. Foster grandparenting
      2. Tutoring
      3. Recording stories, memoirs
      4. Activity/movement classes
      5. Technology classes
      6. Connection with the Child Care Center
    - iv. It would be good to have offerings of activities to the community, especially to meet the needs of those who do not live in a retirement facility.
    - v. This idea comes at a good time in our church.
    - vi. Seniors—and others—need to stay connected and know each other in order to know how to meet each others' needs.
    - vii. Should this be a 50+ ministry or a 65+ ministry? Many people are still working from 50-65 and face isolation issues more so after retirement.
  - e. Gina shared potential steps for getting this group started:
    - i. Meet with the pastors.
    - ii. Create an article for the newsletter.
    - iii. Advertise.
    - iv. Invite all 65+ (or 50+) to a meeting.
    - v. Survey the needs and interests of those who attend the meeting.
    - vi. Form a core group to create a mission statement, goals, and objectives.

5. Small Group Ministry–

- a. The survey results show the top choices of topics as books, nonviolence (in Ukraine), crafting, and healthy living.
- b. Group leaders may determine if the group will begin as in-person, online, or hybrid. Most survey respondents preferred in-person or hybrid, depending on COVID numbers.
- c. Steps for starting the groups:
  - i. Confirm leaders.
  - ii. Leaders dictate date/time for starters.
  - iii. Olivia will email the people who expressed interest on the survey for each group concerning the date, time, location, leaders, and any other pertinent information once those details are determined.
  - iv. Advertise to the congregation.
- d. **Gina** will contact John and Linda Hope to see if they will lead the book group. Paul Brubaker is a backup choice. The leaders will choose the first book.
- e. Chris Bucher had contacted Pastor Pam to volunteer leading a nonviolence group, specifically about gun violence. We feel this offering can be the first of nonviolence group topics, taking the place (for now) of the Ukrainian topic mentioned in the survey.
- f. **Olivia** will host the crafting group and will contact the people who expressed interest in that on the survey.
- g. We don't want to take on too many groups all at once, so we will save Healthy Living for later, and we would need a leader/facilitator.
- h. We are hoping for the Adult Senior/Prime Time ministry to be starting as a group by the fall. **Gina** will facilitate.
- i. We are hoping to have a professional counselor in place to support a previously mentioned "Me Too" group by the fall. **Lois** will facilitate.
- j. **Ellen** is working on plans for LGBTQ+ support, although that group would be geared for the community, not just our congregation.

6. Family Movie Night–August 13th at 7PM

- a. **Bill** will do a run-through on July 2nd.
- b. **Bill** will talk to Crystal about paperwork for filing for license.
- c. **Bill** will run the program. **Ellen** will help set up on August 13th. Time for set-up to be determined.

7. Ted. & Co.--Christian comedy duo to perform at Etown CoB on September 25th.

- a. **Olivia** has a form to complete for Ted.
- b. **Olivia** will work on how to fund this program, which may be several thousand dollars.
  - i. Corporate sponsor?
  - ii. We will be sharing the cost of the event with the Witness Commission.  
**Olivia** will call Jim Hollinger from Witness to discuss funding with him.

- iii. We can pass the offering plates for a donation.
  - iv. We looked at items in our budget that are not currently being used with the idea that Nurture would have \$2,500 from those budgeted items to go toward the Ted & Co. program instead:
    - 1. \$400 Congregational Wellness
    - 2. \$600 Lenten programs
    - 3. \$1,000 Congregational Spiritual Growth
    - 4. \$500 Women's Retreat
8. Faith Markers–
- a. With 17 names on the K list and 14 on the 5th-grade list, we feel we need to regroup as to how we do these presentations.
  - b. We noted that several names on the list received their faith markers last year, so the lists need to be updated.
  - c. **Ellen** will investigate lists with Crystal.
  - d. **Ellen** will contact Beth DeGoede about how the faith marker process worked pre-pandemic.
9. August Sunday Tent Gatherings–
- a. Olivia shared that **Pastor Pam** had suggested the possibility of Nurture Commission offering refreshments in the tent after church each Sunday in August.
  - b. The Nurture group felt overwhelmed at the thought of undertaking such a task ourselves or even asking a committee to handle it since it would be a big commitment for every Sunday for a month in the heat.
10. Kitchen Committee–**Olivia** has invited two likely candidates to come to our July meeting to discuss the possibility and logistics of developing such a committee.
11. Next meeting: The next Nurture Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 7PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen Flury