

DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2018
7:00 p.m.

Members:

Lisa Bansen-Harp
Rae Leonard

Sheila Svoboda (DCFM)
Ed Labbe (Elder)

Cathy Melver
Marian Wahl (Deacon)

Opening Prayer

Approval of April 10, 2018 minutes

Agenda: Additions/Corrections

UPDATES:

Youth Education/Activities – Ed Labbe

- Youth Vision and Admin Teams – Meeting on 5/6 focused on short-term and long-term plans.
- Sean’s “term” expires in June. Session approved beginning a search for a part-time Youth Coordinator with potential starting date as early as September. Sean will assist with search resources.
Youth Coordinator is expected to take over Admin Team/ role in its entirety as well as oversee the Vision Team.
- Youth Vision Team terms will soon expire. We will need nominations for replacement—perhaps looking first to current members of the Admin Team, who have experience with the youth program.
- April 13-14: the youth Haven of Rest service project went well, but lock-in at church was postponed until May 18-19 due to lack of volunteers.
We have volunteers for the rescheduled Lock-In, but some of the youth can’t make it. (This speaks to the need to have events scheduled far in advance and to keep to the schedule, as both youth and volunteers have busy schedules.)
- June 7: Kalahari Water Park – Plans underway. \$30 per person with a minimum of 10 people. Sean suggested that if we don’t have ten participants, the church should chip in to keep the admission at \$30 out-of-pocket.
- Mission Trip – June 24-29 in Cincinnati via Group. Registrations are tentatively final.
 - Planned for ten youth and two adults.
 - Six youth and two adults are registered, with one more adult expected.
- Confirmation
 - 10 out of 10 sessions complete.

- 3 Confirmands: Brooke Jordan, Caden Labbe, Ryen Moorhead
- Confirmation on Pentecost (May 20) – Jon obtained books and Marian is planning a cake for the confirmands for the after-service reception.
- Graduating seniors
 - Hannah Stutler and Sonya Lal are eligible for the Spaethe Scholarship. (Spaethe Scholarships will be awarded in June.)
 - Katie Engels is graduating college this spring with a major in Political Science from Clemson U.
 - Sarah Lafferty will be awarded her M.A. in Speech Pathology from UAkron.
- Jon has books to give the graduates at recognition on May 20.

Adult Education - Rae Leonard

- Guided Tour through the Bible series – New Testament
 - Will end on 5/27 with Revelation.
 - Rae plans a short survey to gauge presentation style & topic preferences.
- Teacher Appreciation Day – May 27

Prayer Quilt Ministry – Marian Wahl

- A quilt will be given May 27 for the baptism of Sam Gilbert.

Children and Family Ministries - Sheila Svoboda

- Tween event on Earth Day: Sunday, April 22, with Keep Akron Beautiful – Review After pizza at the church, the tweens and several adults picked up trash on the church grounds and in nearby Will Christy park.
- Parenting Speaker – 2019 (reminder that it’s never too early to start considering the program…)
 - This year’s Pentecost donation (May 20 offering) could to toward the event if the topic is appropriate.
- \$3000 donation given to support the Children’s and Family Ministry. Continue to discuss how we can use some of the funds to support children in worship (worship boxes / bags).
 - Sheila bought a play loft for the toddlers, a safety mirror and dress-up clothes, as well as sturdy toys with Session approval.
 - Many general ideas have been brainstormed for ongoing dialogue: Godly Play and Bible Story “kits”, Library acquisitions, Youth Choir robes, Tween needs.
 - Cathy mentioned that the library is lacking in books for pre-teens and teens. Lisa will vet recent books on refugees (the new “Leaving My Homeland” series was a bit disappointing).
Cathy mentioned that there might also be library funds to apply to such purchases. In the discussion of potential titles to acquire (dealing with themes of inclusion,

discrimination, tolerance, and refugee crises): *Wonder*; *Hidden Figures* (teen version); *A Long Walk to Water*. The Library Conversations Parenting Group could also suggest some titles.

- VBS dates: July 9-12, 2018. The theme is PARABLES. Sheila and team are constructing the curriculum. We will use Godly Play materials / presentations as part of the program.
 - 2 parables each on the first 2 days, 1 parable on each of the last 2 days
 - Deb Tondra, Kara Hoffman, Susan Shellito, and Sheila are writing portions. Denise and Laurel will do music; Marian will organize food.
 - We will ask for food donations in bulletin and M4M on June 3.
 - Session approved that Wright-Herberich be made available for VBS.

Church-Wide Discipleship events

- Alternate Feb/Mar idea for next year: Congregation-wide, all ages talent show
 - April meeting discussion of talent show idea was positive.
 - One more year of St. Patrick's Day party is still a possibility. Discussion to continue.
- Memorial Day Picnic – 5/27 after worship – Marian (Deacons) to inform if anything is needed from our committee. Prior notes indicate that Discipleship is responsible for children's activities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Eberts Lecture – Alex Sider: Ministering to those with disabilities (Sunday, June 3)
 - He will give the sermon during the service.
 - The banner has arrived and will be put out after the May 13 Five @ Five banner comes down.
 - Jon secured overnight accommodation at O'Neill House.
 - The honorarium will be \$500.
 - We will have the Eberts Lecture after the 10:30 service. Summer services will be delayed until the following week, but service will be in Wright-Herberich Hall, so we will need to do a quick change in setup or have the service with round tables.
 - We will pattern food after the Opioid Crisis speaker (except in lieu of soup we will ask for donated salads to go along with sliced meat and rolls provided by Discipleship: Marian will take the lead on the meats and rolls). Ask has been approved by Session.
 - We'll need childcare.
 - Marketing status for this event is as follows (also patterned after Opiate Speaker):
 - Jon will email local clergy with information about the event.
 - Germaine and Sheila arranged for a banner. Skipping press release.
 - Sunday bulletin and Sunday Update emails should be advertising this now.
 - Bulletin inserts on May 13 and/or June 3?
 - Ed will provide a Script article (Jon got bio and write-up from Alex)
 - Ed will do a Minute for Ministry on May 13.

- Sheila will put out a sign-up at Connection Point for attendance and salad donations.
- Output from Time and Talent Stewardship Team
 - Follow-ups for Sheila include VBS Volunteers, Tween Event Volunteers, Bible Story Teacher and Children's Ministry Committee.
 - Cathy was to follow up with other potential Library Volunteers (Shirley Werner and Becky Harlow). Will also talk to Jamie Willis. Jamie would like to step down from leading the library. Shirley is willing to help but not to lead. Cathy will lead in refreshing the library and will put out a call for volunteers to help (probably scheduling a work day in early fall—winnowing the collection first, then asking for donations of specific titles).
 - Cathy was to follow up with Heather Keane about PW Circles. Cathy passed the name on to Ginny Melver.
 - The Stewardship Committee is putting together a small booklet that explains each volunteer opportunity at Westminster Church. They are asking each committee to write a 2-3 sentence explanation for each of our volunteer activities. They will be typed up and included in the booklet in a uniform fashion so that this booklet does not need to be updated each year unless opportunities are added or deleted.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ice Cream Social: August 18th was communicated to Session for the date.
- Suggestions for a performer, ideally someone with an interactive approach: Laurel Labbe is trying to contact Hal Walker (a music educator) but has not yet heard back. Sheila knows of someone who combines music and animals. Pat Santelli might have ideas. (Son in law plays the hammer dulcimer) – We need to secure someone soon. We will need to put an article in the next Script.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Review of Discipleship activities calendar for August 2018-July 2019. (Along with the event dates, the calendar needs to specify scheduling of Minutes for Ministry, Collections, Bulletin inserts, worship schedule, etc.)

Closing Prayer

Next meeting – June 12, 2018 @ 7 pm